This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

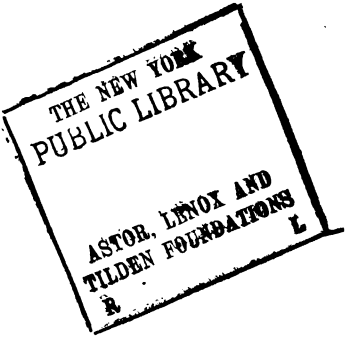
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

1. name (Ducat, a) (unless name or
added entry

AN
(Ducat, A.)
Mem


THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
R
L

MEMOIR

OF

GEN. A. C. DUCAT.

CHICAGO:
RAND, McNALLY & CO.
1897.

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
309975B
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
R 1945 L

PREFACE.

It was the wish of General Arthur C. Ducat, definitely expressed some time before his death, that a record of his life, both civil and military, should be prepared for his family and for distribution among his personal friends here and in his native country. In fulfillment of his request, the following memorial has been compiled, largely from the General's own papers, and the writer trusts that this imperfect sketch of a strong and many-sided personality may yet commend itself to those best qualified to judge of its fidelity to the original, and to impart from their own inner remembrance, life and color to this silhouette of Arthur C. Ducat, the sagacious man of business, the gallant soldier, the loving parent, and the true and faithful friend.

"As when a painter, poring o'er a face,
Divinely thro' all hindrance finds the man
Behind it, and so paints him that his face,
The shape and color of a mind and life,
Lives for his children, ever at its best
And fullest."

"Lindenwald," September, 1897.

Queens — 16 March, 1905

ARTHUR CHARLES DUCAT.

CHAPTER I.

PARENTAGE AND EARLY TRAINING.

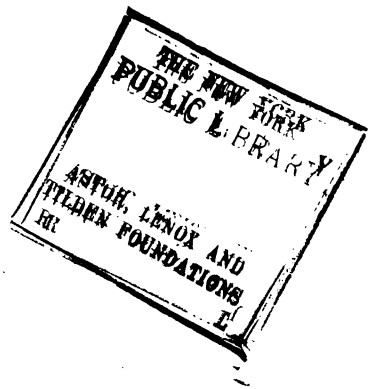
Arthur Charles Ducat was born at Glenagarry, near Kingstown, County Dublin, Ireland, February 24th, 1830. He was the youngest of four children of Mungo Murray Ducat and of Dorcas Julia, his wife. The Ducat family had its origin in the Scottish Highlands, but this particular branch had long been settled in Forfarshire. Mungo Murray, a scion of the house, after completing his education at the University of St. Andrews, and studying, without practicing, law for some time in Edinburgh, went over to Ireland, where he thought he could more easily realize his ambition to own a landed estate and lead (to him) the ideal life of a country gentleman.

There, in the gay capital of Dublin, he first met the lady who afterwards became his wife,

Dorcas Julia, the bright and accomplished daughter of Captain Atkinson of the English Navy—one of Nelson's officers, who fought by his side in the battle of Trafalgar and there lost an arm,—where the hero lost his life. Strong is the power of heredity, and it was doubtless to this parentage that Arthur Charles Ducat owed that blending of Saxon sagacity and Celtic dash and daring which all through life were salient features of his character and potent factors in his successful business career.

Shortly after their marriage the young couple settled at Glenagarry, a leasehold property, overlooking Kingstown Harbor, where they resided for a number of years and where all their children were born. Some years after, Mr. Ducat also purchased a long lease of Turvey Place, a fine old Elizabethan demesne in Dublin County, a few miles from the city. The house, with its long stone front, is picturesquely situated on high terraced grounds, sloping gently down to rich pastures and shady woodlands. Here Arthur Charles Ducat commenced his education with a private tutor under the wise supervision of his father, who combined his love of out-door

TURVEY PLACE.


THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

life and field-sports with the tastes and habits of the student, and made it an unvarying rule to spend at least two hours of every day in his library. A small but choice collection of pictures adorned the house, and in this atmosphere of literary and artistic culture the Ducat children passed their early years.

Newlawn, another leasehold property, which Mr. Mungo Ducat added to Turvey Place, was also for a time the family home. There he died, in 1842, leaving his extensive leaseholds to be cared for by his widow,—but very little clear property besides to support a family brought up in luxury and refinement. This sudden change of fortune had the inevitably unsettling effect on young Arthur's character and career, and it is not surprising to see in the next few years the chaotic elements of a strong nature constantly warring with itself and with those who sought to lead and control what they did not understand. At the age of fifteen he was apprenticed to Messrs. Findlater & Co., merchants in Dublin and old friends of his father, but one year's trial convinced both him and them that not that way lay success, and greatly to his own relief and no doubt to that of his worthy employers, he

was released from his indentures and again resumed his studies at Belmont College. There he spent two years, taking a mixed course of classics and mathematics with special attention to civil engineering. But again the restless spirit rebelled against the trammels of civil life, and in a fit of disgust or impatience he enlisted in the army as a private in the Duke of Cambridge's own Regiment of Lancers, where his fine physique and natural military bearing made him a welcome recruit and soon attracted the favorable notice of his superior officers. Rapid growth, however (he was then over six feet in height), had for a time weakened his fine constitution; and threatening symptoms of pulmonary disease compelled him to apply for his discharge, which was reluctantly granted, and with great regret he left the service which by nature and inclination he was eminently fitted to adorn. "But there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will."

Resolved to be no longer dependent on his widowed mother's slender resources he, after a weary period of inaction, baffled in his repeated efforts to win freedom and independence, resolved to seek his fortune in the new

world. He sailed for the United States, working his passage before the mast, partly from economy and partly from a love of adventure, and landed in New York October 28th, 1850, with very little money in his pockets, but gifted with a clear head, a light heart and the indomitable will that recognizes difficulties only to overcome or circumvent them.

CHAPTER II.

BEGINS LIFE IN AMERICA.

Arrived in New York and having a good theoretical knowledge of civil engineering, and being determined to put that knowledge into practice, he had little to do but to look about him to find employment. The year 1850 was almost the first year of extensive railroad construction in this country. It was then just beginning in the southeastern portion of New York State, and thither Mr. Ducat went and soon obtained his first remunerative work in the new country. There he remained but a few months, when he learned that railroad building on a yet more extensive scale was projected in the West, and

that civil engineers were greatly in demand there. He had heard and read much of the West, and was convinced that in that part of this immense country lay his prospective fortunes.

Full of courage and hope he started for Chicago—a long and tedious journey—and at that time an unsightly and insignificant city of about twenty-eight thousand inhabitants. It had not a mile of completed railroad—its small commerce was all done on the lakes and canal—but long lines of railroad were projected, and on some parts of them surveys were actually being made. One of these was the Fox River Valley Road, and with the company that had this project in hand Mr. Ducat engaged to go out as one of a surveying party.

With the assurance of steady and profitable employment he decided to bring over his mother, sister and brother. His intention to meet them in New York was nearly frustrated by the failure of the company to pay him his salary when due. But chancing to be in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where was lying at the wharf a vessel destined for Buffalo, which was waiting for a wheelsman to be secured, Mr.

Ducat volunteered to fill the vacancy, was accepted and safely steered the vessel to Buffalo, thus securing a free passage to that city and sufficient remuneration to carry him to New York in time to welcome his mother on her arrival in the new world. This anecdote is given as an illustration of his filial devotion and the indomitable energy of his character even in early years. Returning immediately to the West, he settled his relatives at Belvidere, Illinois, and then went back to his surveying. From the Fox River Valley Railroad, the entire line of which was now nearly located, he changed to the North-Western Railroad, with his headquarters at Racine.

CHAPTER III.

FIRST FIVE YEARS IN CHICAGO—INSURANCE.

It was in 1856 that Mr. Ducat decided to settle permanently in Chicago, where, both from personal and business qualifications, he had already secured many valuable connections. His first appointment was as assistant to Mr. Julius White, an insurance agent and

head of a feeble Board of Underwriters. The energy and ability with which Mr. Ducat discharged the duties attached to his office soon brought him into prominence. His position naturally led him to take great interest in the City Fire Department and brought him into contact with its chief, Silas McBride, who at that time labored under great disadvantages in the working of his department, having only volunteer firemen, and engines worked by hand. Both McBride and Ducat were convinced that to secure the safety of Chicago it was absolutely necessary that the Fire Department should be reorganized and the recently invented steam fire engines at once obtained. The next year increased life was found to have been infused into the Board of Underwriters, and it was determined to reorganize it on more extended lines. Mr. Ducat was elected Secretary and Surveyor and so was in position to have practically the control of the board's business. He was the first secretary and surveyor to give his entire time to the duties attached to those positions. He did more—he continued his efforts to improve the Fire Department, considering it part of an underwriter's business to secure an efficient fire ser-

vice. In 1857 a great fire in the then business center of the city came opportunely to his assistance. The consequent loss of life and property roused the interest of the citizens as to the best means of averting a similar calamity in the future. The introduction of two steam fire engines precipitated a revolution in the Fire Department and brought on something like a riot in the streets. The volunteer firemen were not willing to give up their hand-working machines, and they had many friends who sympathized with them to the point of forcible resistance. The entire police force was barely able to prevent a general uprising and Mr. Ducat was, for a time, the most unpopular man in the city, but undeterred by ill will and opposition, he still urged the necessity of reorganization and improvement of the Fire Department.

The loss of goods from exposure to the elements and depredation of thieves in the great fire of 1857 was in excess of anything before known in Chicago, and served as a challenge to the insurance companies and the Fire Department to meet like perils in the future by some new and adequate arrangement. Mr. Ducat proposed to organize a salvage corps,

but as the name did not please he called it a Fire Brigade. This move, too, was angrily opposed by firemen jealous of their customary privileges, and to some extent by citizens who regarded with disfavor any change in the old order of things. Mr. Ducat had to stand in the breach, and carry his measure by sheer force of will. To will he added enthusiasm. Other citizens contributed money; the city officers consented; and the Fire Brigade became an assured organization. Mr. Ducat was elected the first Captain, and he took command with military promptness and handled his men as though they were all soldiers whose destination was the battle field. The brigade was very successful in protecting property endangered by fires, and both the insurers and the insured, and finally even the firemen, gave Mr. Ducat the credit which was justly his due.

He was now in position to attack the whole organization of the Volunteer Fire Companies, and it was plain that public opinion was at last on the side of the modern system of a paid fire department under responsible direction. The change was advocated before the council by Mr. Ducat, among others, and the council acted on the advice, but some-

what reluctantly; the old firemen were "good fellows," some of them were rich and influential, and their organization died hard. At last the city had a proper and full equipment of defense against fires, her citizens could, with all confidence, accept the guaranties of the insurance companies, and Mr. Ducat, having striven hard and accomplished much, was now at liberty to give exclusive attention to his duties as Secretary of the Board of Underwriters. He thought deeply on the general subject of underwriting, and evolved ideas and plans that were new, if not startling, to a good many. The need of the profession, as well as the interest of the people, was uniformity of rates, definite classification, and a settled order of surveys—this was his firm conviction, after long pondering on the subject. He made his conclusions known and they were opposed by many underwriters and regarded with suspicion by large numbers of insurance companies.

Undeterred by opposition, wherever he could find hearers he stated his views and enforced them with arguments which ultimately brought conviction to the minds of the majority of underwriters. It was not so easy to win over the companies.

During the year 1858 he found leisure apart from his official duties to write a book on insurance. It was published in the following year and at once ranked as an authority on the subject and it is apt to surprise those outside of the circle of underwriters that so much could be said and said so well on the subject. It had an extensive sale — four editions were called for in rapid succession; and it was everywhere accepted as authority in the business. It is just as much an authority at the present time, as is shown in the fact that there is a continuous demand for it.

Progress was made towards scientific methods, but still there remained a busy minority of underwriters who persisted in the go-as-you-please way, and would on no account give up the policy of scattering. This minority appeared to be growing, and Mr. Ducat began to doubt if the Board of Underwriters could much longer be kept together. But one possible attempt he had not essayed—he had not tried systematically to bring over the insurance companies. He was well and favorably known in the Eastern States, and with courage he went thither alone and laid the entire case before every one of the companies that was

doing business in Chicago. His visit resulted in a complete triumph, and the following resolutions were signed by the officers of all the principal insurance companies of New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut:

"At a meeting, held this day, of the various insurance companies interested in and doing business in the City of Chicago, Illinois, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted and ordered signed by said companies:

"Resolved, That the companies here represented highly approve of the action of their respective agents in Chicago in forming an association for sustaining the rate of premium on fire risks in that city, and feel great pleasure in acknowledging the wisdom and discretion exhibited in the classification of risks, and the various additional charges enumerated in the Chicago tariff.

"Resolved, That the maintaining the Chicago Association is, in our opinion, a matter of vital importance to the agents themselves, and decidedly to the interests of the various companies transacting business in that city; and that we each agree to require from our respective agents to adhere strictly to all the rules and rates defined in said tariff; and the stipulations connected therewith.

"Resolved, That we will agree to give to the board above named a notice of at least thirty days before we withdraw from the obligations we assumed above.

"Resolved, That we regard the existing union of all insurance agents in Chicago, and all the companies represented by them in the association for sustaining uniform rates, as a subject for congratulation; and we gladly recognize the able agency of Mr. Ducat, the secretary of the board, in procuring this desirable result."

These documents Mr. Ducat submitted to the board, and they have been carefully preserved and bear this general endorsement in Mr. Ducat's own handwriting:

"All the above signatures were procured by me as above set forth. Arthur C. Ducat, Secretary and Surveyor, Chicago Board of Underwriters."

He felt a just pride in his achievement, and from that day onward the board stood firm and united against all hostile comers. Instantly all objections were silenced; every form of dissension ceased.

CHAPTER IV.

FIRST YEARS OF SOCIAL LIFE IN CHICAGO—ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY—HIGHLAND GUARDS.

Arthur Charles Ducat possessed a highly social nature, but not all socially-inclined persons were permitted to know of its depth and breadth. Some thought him distant, if not haughty; others deemed him exclusive, and nearly all, at times, found him reserved in manner. But he recognized no lines of social distinction among his worthy acquaintances. He was never a society man in the ordinary acceptance of the word—but always welcomed the company of his friends whenever he had leisure to enjoy it. Among his friends were many Scotsmen who afterwards became highly successful business men and some of them distinguished in public life.

About this time he joined the St. Andrews Society and formed there friendships which he cultivated and retained through all the years of his life in Chicago.

Another organization composed wholly of

Scotsmen, of which he became a member, was the Highland Guards, a fine volunteer military company of the early days of Chicago, which was the pride of all resident Scotsmen and one of the boasts of the city.

Engrossed in business as he was, ambitious of the distinction which success in business gives, he yet found time for reading and for efficient membership in literary associations and societies. He took no part in minor politics, but in large public questions and in eminent men he was greatly interested. He knew Senator Douglas personally, but he believed in Lincoln; and when Richard Cobden or Smith O'Brien, or any other foreigner of distinction, visited the city, he was sure to be found among those who called to pay their respects.

The books which he read in those times were many of them works on military science and strategy. Perhaps there was something in the atmosphere of the years just preceding the Civil War to induce him to take up such studies. At all events he did give his mind to them; and also, at the same time, took increased interest in the discipline and drills of the Highland Guards. A short time afterwards it was seen that he had been all along

a soldier in preparation for active and important service.

CHAPTER V.

HIS EFFORTS TO GET INTO THE ARMY—FIRST SERVICE.

The moment that the news of the hostile firing on Fort Sumter was received in Chicago, Mr. Ducat resolved to personally engage in the war, which was then seen to be inevitable. He had been for rather more than a year a member of the Highland Guards, as engineer, and something like a staff officer to the captain. War meetings were the order of the day, and one of the first war meetings held was notified that the Highland Guards, under Captain John McArthur, were actively preparing to tender their services to the Government, as soon as the expected call for troops should be made. The meeting received the notice with approving cheers and then formally "Resolved, That this meeting approve the course taken by the Highland Guards to place their company in an efficient and available condition, and that we extend to them

our hearty co-operation and sympathy, and recommend the young men of the city to enroll their names in that or some similar organization." Further, the meeting proposed to give financial aid, and appointed a committee to represent the people, which was partly selected from the company and partly from the citizens, as follows: A. C. Ducat, Major Wallis, A. A. Wylie, J. Lyle King, and S. B. Perry. The preparations went on rapidly; but the call for troops soon came—there was hurrying of volunteer soldiers from every part of the State, to the capital, more than could be accepted, and the Highland Guards were told to wait.

Mr. Ducat was not in a waiting mood, and he determined to try an independent movement, in the line somewhat of his former profession. He raised and enlisted a corps of engineers, sappers, and miners of three hundred men, all of them engineers by profession, or soldiers of experience abroad in that branch of military service. Many of them came from a great distance, some of them from the extremes of the country, to enlist in this corps. It was a fine body of men, and its leader hoped that the Government would put it to important

uses. He first tendered it to the Governor of Illinois; it was rejected. Next he made a tender of it to the General Government; again it was rejected, but the refusal was accompanied with compliments and thanks. Still he was not discouraged. His friend McArthur had been called to Springfield and commissioned as colonel of the Twelfth Illinois Infantry, then just formed of companies from various parts of the State. Here was his opportunity at last. He at once hastened to Springfield and volunteered in Colonel McArthur's regiment and was by that officer appointed regimental adjutant. He soon after succeeded to a vacant lieutenancy in Company A, one of the Chicago companies, and later became first lieutenant, retaining the adjutancy at regimental headquarters.

May 10th the regiment marched out of Camp Yates at Springfield over eight hundred strong and was transferred by rail to Caseyville, Illinois, a station on the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad near St. Louis. The duty here was to guard about sixty-nine miles of the railroad east of that city and to maintain an out-post of forty men at East St. Louis

in communication with the Union forces, under Colonel Blair and Captain Lyon, across the river. The service at Caseyville was very useful to the regiment as exercise and preparation for the more serious conflicts that were to come. In this work of discipline Colonel McArthur had an efficient assistant and the regiment a conspicuous example of soldierly activity in Adjutant Ducat.

One of the first labors of the Adjutant at Caseyville was the laying off of the encampment. The region was a pleasant one. From the edge of a bluff at the left, looking westward, one saw cultivated farms here and there in the valley, separated by streams bordered with broad belts of forest. Beyond these and beyond the unseen Mississippi could be discerned the distant spires of St. Louis. The camp named by Colonel McArthur, Camp Bissell, was set upon high and undulating ground, and the easy slopes over which the men had traced its regular streets, were mantled at that season with a smooth elastic turf —Kentucky blue grass speckled with blossoms of white clover. This natural lawn covered all the clear spaces. Better parade and drill ground regiment never had.

June 3d, 1861, the regiment left Caseyville for Cairo, via St. Louis, by steamer. At Cairo the term of enlistment—three months—expired. Meetings were held among the men and the question of re-enlistment discussed. With few exceptions the regiment re-entered the service for three years.

Lieutenant Ducat was commissioned as Captain of Company A. In this more responsible position Captain Ducat, as always before, did his full part. The Government having decided to put an end to the attitude of neutrality assumed by the authorities of Kentucky, General Charles F. Smith, with a command of western troops, including the 12th Illinois, was ordered to seize and occupy Paducah at the mouth of the Tennessee River. This important movement was promptly accomplished. In August, 1861, the regiment went into camp at Paducah near the Marine Hospital as a part of General Smith's division and under that officer's command joined in the demonstration in the rear of Columbus during the battle of Belmont. A vacancy having about this time occurred in the majority of the regiment Captain Ducat was appointed to fill it. He was with the regiment in the reconnoissance of

Fort Donelson, and also in the battles of Forts Henry and Donelson in the following February.

While riding along the lines with Colonel McArthur and other officers across some open ground near one of the out-works of Donelson Major Ducat had the distinction of being the first man in the regiment hurt by the enemy's fire. Several shells were sent in rapid succession and a fragment of one stunned and dismounted him, but fortunately the injury proved slight and he immediately returned to duty and was in command of the left wing of the regiment a day or two later in the battle preceding the surrender of the rebel army.

For his gallantry at Donelson he received honorable mention in the report of the general commanding. That winter this division of the army was not aggressive, and Major Ducat spent some of his time in instructing the soldiers in both defense and field tactics. In April, 1862, he was appointed lieutenant-colonel. The command proceeded to Clarksville and Nashville under General Grant in a general forward movement. It was in the operations at Pittsburg Landing and in the advance on Corinth.

Up to this point things had gone well with him; he had received three promotions which he valued, and was conscious that he was attracting more and more the notice of his superior officers.

He was appointed to a staff position which, as it would interrupt, if not finally prevent his further rising in rank, was not fortunate. At the time he was no doubt gratified; but before very long he realized that it was no favor that was thus done him.

He was attached as senior officer on the staff of Major-General E. O. C. Ord; he served in that capacity at the battle of Iuka and after until Major-General Rosecrans took command of the army at Corinth and ordered him to his staff in command of grand guards and outposts. At the severe battle of Corinth, and in the subsequent pursuit of the enemy, he served as senior aid-de-camp, and received warm congratulations from the general commanding, not only for bravery in the field, but for military efficiency before and during the battle and pursuit. He was, while in pursuit and on the return, sixty consecutive hours in the saddle, with the exception of short halts while writing dispatches or changing horses,

an achievement which, regarded as an instance of physical endurance, stands, it is believed, alone in the whole course of the war.

A war correspondent of a New York newspaper furnished an erroneous account of this incident, which Colonel Ducat corrected as follows:

"How untrue are the anecdotes of history; and if history is in part to be made up from anecdotes, how untrue is history! For instance, this paragraph, picked up by a newspaper man somewhere, I presume from a third or fourth telling, is in few ways correct.

"What are the facts? After the battle of Corinth, and returning from the pursuit of the enemy from Ripley, Mississippi, I was in the advance of the staff, with my orderlies and two or three officers of my own department. It was my duty to make a reconnoissance of the bridge in front over the Hatchie River, which I did in person, on the gallop, and there being about ten to fifteen feet (I never measured it) of planking out of the rickety old wooden structure, my horse, a thoroughbred, 'Red Oak,' jumped it. Lieutenant Lyford, next after me, jumped it, but Colonel Kennett, who came third, went through the hole, as well as

two orderlies, into the river, which luckily was not over four or five feet deep, but deep enough to break the fall, and no damage was done but the ducking, and all had a hearty laugh. We shouted to the General and balance of the staff with the escort of cavalry to go down the river two miles to a ford, which the topographical map indicated, and to come up on our side of the river. I thought I would take a snooze in the interim, so getting some rails from a rail fence, and slanting them in comfortable form I unstrapped my blanket and horse blanket, and wrapping myself and horse, laid down with my arm through the bridle and was fast asleep in a minute or two.

"When General Rosecrans came up, he found me there in this position, and it was he that took me by the collar and jerked me upon my feet and said, 'Ducat, get on your horse; he has been pawing your face, and we cannot leave you here all night in the swamps with the enemy's cavalry within two miles of us.' I had ridden sixty consecutive hours, which is, I believe, as long as any ride of record in the United States Army, and replied to General Rosecrans in a dignified way that as a rule he knew I obeyed orders, but it being

my horse and my face I declined to obey now, and desired to be left alone. The result was that I was left there and slept until long after daylight the next morning; got upon my horse, followed the trail, fell fast asleep on my horse again, and was only awakened by his going into a stream to drink, when the overhanging boughs of a beach tree knocked my hat off and came near dismounting me. I got off, recovered the hat about one hundred yards down the creek, and followed the trail of the staff to Kossuth, where I found them bivouacked in a farm yard that night. This is the true anecdote.

"I might add that on my ride to Kossuth I came plump into a regiment of the enemy's infantry that had been in at Corinth to bury their dead, and of which I was not aware. My conversation with the commanding officer of that regiment until I knew his mission and that he was under 'a flag' can be fancied."

Previous to the battle of Corinth, Ducat was appointed by General Grant, Inspector-General of the Second Division of West Tennessee, but the battle prevented his joining another command. Shortly after the battle he conducted a flag of truce to the enemy at Holly

Springs, a distance of sixty-three miles through a country infested with a superior number of guerrillas, he being sent on a mission requiring diplomacy and good management.

While out with this flag of truce an incident occurred of a most unpleasant nature, one which, in fact, came near having serious consequences. Colonel Ducat was attacked in his hotel at Holly Springs by some rebel officers of a Tennessee regiment, and was compelled to barricade himself in his room. He with his aides lay prostrate on the floor, and at intervals all through one night answered with shots from revolvers the fire of his assailants. Next morning he informed the commander of the rebel post of the outrage, and received the following reply:

Headquarters of Post,
Holly Springs, Oct. 20th, 1862.

Colonel: I learn with regret that discourtesy was shown you last night at the hotel by certain soldiers or officers of the Confederate Army. This is to request you to give me a full statement of the facts, and, if possible, the names of the parties. They shall be punished for their rudeness. Very respectfully, J. A. ORR,
Colonel Commanding Post.

Lieut-Col. A. C. Ducat, of Federal Army.

It is unnecessary to describe at length the battle of Corinth further than to notice the part taken by Colonel Ducat in that important event.

Iuka, a few days previously, had been a hard-fought field, but the numbers engaged were few on either side, and the victory decided nothing. Colonel Ducat had important and hazardous duties in that fight, and in discharging them showed both courage, good judgment, and gallantry. Corinth was the first great battle he was engaged in as a member of the staff of the General in command and there he greatly distinguished himself by his coolness and daring.

It had been the order of General Rosecrans, in forming the line of battle, that General Hamilton's division was to touch with his left the right of General Davies' division on the first day. Colonel Ducat, finding the left and center driven, went to see what General Hamilton was doing, or could do, and found he had not closed the line, and was away to the right so far that the enemy had actually deployed a strong skirmish line, feeling its way around the Union right. Ducat rode through this line of skirmishers to find Hamilton, and

ordered him to close in and attack the enemy's left flank. Hamilton declined to obey without General Rosecrans' written order. Ducat again rode through the skirmish line to General Rosecrans, procured the order and rode again through the line and exposed to its fire, to Hamilton, where he delivered the order and had the pleasure of seeing the attack successfully made at the time it was so critically needed. The two orderlies sent after Ducat, with similar written orders, in case Ducat couldn't reach Hamilton, were killed on the way. This service is mentioned in General Rosecrans' paper on the battle of Corinth in the Century Magazine of October, 1886.

Some field dispatches written or carried by Colonel Ducat were preserved by him, and these may now be given.

In the Battle of Corinth,
On General Hamilton's Right,
3.30 P. M., Oct. 2nd, 1862.

General Rosecrans: General Sullivan has gone down to attack on General Davies' right. General Buford commands the right and is rapidly closing in on the enemy's flank. As I write General Sullivan is engaged.

I have recommended General Hamilton to keep his artillery well in. He can not use it now. One battery I have sent down to Sullivan.

They are shelling the place where I write. I doubt if I shall be able to reach you by the Purdy road. I send a copy of this round out of fire.

We are losing many men, and the engagement is general and fast increasing. I have accomplished all you sent me to do and superintended all the movements and formations as you directed.

A. C. DUCAT,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Grand Guards.

Headquarters Army of the Mississippi,
10 A. M., October 3rd, 1862.

Brigadier-General Davies, Commanding Second Division:

General: Rush forward your skirmishers on your front and feel of what you have got to handle, if anything.

We may assume the offensive very soon; it depends upon the pressure that may come on the right. The Purdy road is guarded by cavalry.

General Hamilton is on your right on the Purdy road at the rebel works.

A battalion of cavalry will be sent out to scout from front towards Chewalla by Bolivar road and then to left.

By Order of MAJOR-GENERAL ROSECRANS.

Arthur C. Ducat, Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Grand Guards.

Headquarters, Army of the Mississippi,
11 A. M., October 3rd, 1862.

General: If you have not already sent out a

party of skirmishers on your front, where are the rebel works, the General recommends that you do so, and feel the woods on their flanks on the Bolivar road. A short distance beyond the abatis on your front on the Bolivar road there is a good command which needs watching. There is also a road to the left from the Bolivar road at the above-mentioned ridge.

There is a bridle path on your left going through the rebel works and the abatis which will need your attention. It is between the Bolivar and Chewalla roads.

By Order of MAJOR-GENERAL ROSECRANS.

A. C. Ducat, Acting Assistant Ins. Gen.

Headquarters, Army of the Mississippi,
12 O'clock noon, October 3rd, 1862.

Brigadier-General Hamilton:

General: Rest your left on General Davies, and swing round your right and attack the enemy on their left flank. Reinforce on your right and center. Be careful not to get under Davies' guns. Keep your troops well in hand. Get well this way. Do not extend too much to your right. Would be well to put your artillery, well supported, on ridge where your skirmishers were when Colonel Ducat left. This may be too far to the right. Use your own judgment.

By Order of MAJOR-GENERAL ROSECRANS.

A. C. Ducat, Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Staff.

Headquarters, Army of the Mississippi,
Jonesboro, Tenn., October 7th, 1862.

Major-General Hurlburt:

General: I dispatched you last night. Our advance is now at Rugersville or near there. I have been trying to determine whether Price and Van Dorn stick together, and what are the routes of retreat. The question is still unsettled, but a portion of Price's train camped west of the Hatchie, and a large portion of Van Dorn's train is reported to have come west of the Muddy. From the front the news is that they have not separated. You are a fighting general. You must support us. We have watched railroads and points long enough. Now is the time to make the enemy watch. Now is the time. Move Heaven and earth to get what you want—your artillery in shape, etc., and let us go into them. We can do it and others must look after the country we leave in the rear.

Sunrise dispatch received. Sherman must move on Pillow and the other people who rally to him. We want you. If we are pressed we must fight and whip. At the very least you must not leave your present position now. Your position is a good one. You say it is my victory. I consider the one-half of it yours. You have gained the last point and certainly not the least. I have ordered fifty wagons of provisions to you. Let us go on. We have the whole thing before us. What says Grant?

By Order of MAJOR-GENERAL ROSECRANS.

A. C. Ducat, Lieutenant-Colonel and Acting Ins. Gen.

CHAPTER VI.

COMES NORTH WITH GENERAL ROSECRANS.

General Rosecrans was ordered to proceed northward and take command of the army heretofore in command of Major-General Don Carlos Buell, and known as the Army of Ohio. At the same time Colonel Ducat was ordered by the War Department to accompany General Rosecrans, and in the order was named as chief of staff. He had received no previous intimation of a purpose to transfer him from the Army of the Tennessee, to which he was much attached; but he had great admiration for and confidence in General Rosecrans, and was quite willing to follow him and partake in his fortunes. The headquarters of the army were practically at Louisville, but the greater portion of the army itself was at Bowling Green. It was a reduced and discouraged force. Originally it had numbered one hundred thousand men, but greatly less than that number were now on its muster rolls; and upwards of twenty-four thousand were absent

on leave; six thousand four hundred and eighty-four men were absent without leave. The effective force which General Rosecrans had succeeded to was, therefore, about sixty-five thousand strong. This army required to be reorganized. The commanding general entered upon this duty with promptness and zeal, and he found in his chief of staff an assistant of surprising skill and energy. Colonel Ducat was in his true element—he had been a student of military organization, and he regarded discipline as the chief requisite of military success. Opportunely he was relieved of the duties of chief of staff, as he all along had known he would be, upon the arrival of his intended successor, the gallant and accomplished Julius Garesché. Now he was given engineering work—employment he had been familiar with from boyhood—upon the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, which had been half destroyed by the enemy. The army drew some supplies from Louisville, and with difficulty proceeded to Nashville. General Negley, who afterward became one of Colonel Ducat's warm friends, was already there. But the railroad was not yet fully re-opened, and though the enemy were operating in the vicinity, in a manner to

annoy General Rosecrans, he was not able to at once assume the offensive. Meantime Colonel Ducat, what with his engineering and his studying how to better some of the conditions of the army's organization, was extremely busy. He then and there, in his capacity of inspector-general, devised a new system of division and brigade enumeration, and a new description and ordering of flags. He had the approval of General Rosecrans, who adopted them in an official order.

Let it be repeated, this is not a history of the war; nor is it the purpose of this writing to include and describe all of Colonel Ducat's actions and labors in the war. Only such and so many incidents and actions, personally attaching to him as soldier and patriot, as are best calculated to mark and illustrate his character, is it attempted here to present. The battles of Stone River and Tullahoma, hard and bloody conflicts that they were, can only be mentioned in passing. They resulted in added reputation to Rosecrans; in them he achieved glory his detractors have not been able to dim. At his side was Colonel Ducat, or only absent from him in different parts of the hotly contested fields, while executing

faithfully and fearlessly orders received direct from him. The Chief of Staff Garesché had fallen, but his friend and associate was unharmed, and proudly witnessed the skillful and daring conduct of his commander. That splendid conduct so impressed him that ever after when some enemy to "Old Rosy" would spring up, and in a public speech or in the press assail him, Ducat became suddenly angry and rushed in with a reply. For instance in answer to an article published long after the war in a Chicago newspaper he said, also in a Chicago newspaper, this, among other indignant things:

"General Rosecrans is a great and successful soldier and a generous friend. Rich Mountain, Carnifax Ferry, Iuka, Corinth, Stone River, Tullahoma, Chattanooga, and Chickamauga would be glory enough for one man, and would entitle him to the respect and gratitude of a people for what he has done, in almost any other country or time, and it is not his fault that devotion to his family, sore affliction, and the necessity of earning a support, together with the sensitive nature that is always found to exist in men of his bravery and genius, have prevented him from coming for-

ward to resist the attacks of calumniators whose chief object is to filch from him his well-earned glory and build up their smirched reputations on his deeds."

CHAPTER VII.

CHATTANOOGA AND CHICKAMAUGA.

After the successful and glorious fighting at Stone River, and having made secure of Murfreesboro', it was General Rosecrans' next business to advance and clear Middle Tennessee of the enemy. The rebel Bragg was in that section with a superior force, and he with other rebel officers held a number of strong points. General Rosecrans moved forward, fighting every mile of the way and always pushing Bragg until finally without a serious engagement—simply by masterly strategy—Middle Tennessee was cleared of the enemy. Chattanooga, held and strongly fortified by the rebels, and the objective point of Rosecrans' army, was abandoned by Bragg's order; he could no longer hold that place, and he hoped to take up a new position, that he could

make equally strong, near the Chickamauga. Chattanooga was entered by Rosecrans' army and Colonel Ducat's first important duty there was made known to him in an official order.

Headquarters, Department of the Cumberland,
Chattanooga, Sept. 11th, 1863.

Colonel: The General commanding directs you, in company with Brigadier-General Morton, to make a thorough examination of the defensive works in and about this place, and the available position for troops, and make a written report of the result of your examination. Very respectfully,

G. GODDARD, A. A. G.

Lieut.-Col. A. C. Ducat, Asst. Ins. Gen.

The report was that Chattanooga could be defended against any assault. But soon the accumulation of the enemy's forces on the Chickamauga, the greater portion of Rosecrans' army was required to move out and challenge Bragg, with his army seventy thousand strong, to a decisive battle. In concentrating Rosecrans' forces some unfortunate accidents occurred, but at last fifty-five thousand men were all posted to advantage. The battle commenced and raged fiercely throughout the day (Saturday, September 19th). When night fell neither army had much the advantage.

Next morning Breckenridge, on the rebel side, began the conflict, and was quickly followed by all the rebel divisions. The principal weight of their attack was upon the right wing of the Union army which stood wonderfully for a time, but at length was crushed and its fragments driven on the road to Chattanooga. Rosecrans re-entered Chattanooga and from there resumed the direction of the army, meantime the left wing did not share the demoralization to a fatal extent, but finally it moved from the field. Rosecrans was in possession of Chattanooga, the place the fight was for, and the rebels had gained a fruitless victory on the field. It is a question with military critics and historians to this day whether Rosecrans sustained such a defeat as justified his removal from command. Colonel Ducat held strongly an opinion on this question; Rosecrans was removed. General Thomas was appointed to succeed him and Colonel Ducat was assigned to his staff with the old rank and duties.

Among General Ducat's papers were found some copies of Chickamauga's field dispatches which have a personal as well as military interest, but as they deal with questions that might revive old controversies it has been deemed wiser to suppress them.

At the great battle of Chickamauga, when the right was turned and driven, Colonel Ducat refused to leave the field with the staff, asking for volunteers from it to remain with him and assist in rallying the right wing, which he believed to be possible. Captains Burt and Hill, Lieutenants Porter and Reynolds, and Captain Garner, commanding the cavalry escort, and his company responded to his urgent appeal. He succeeded in making a stand in the Dry Valley, reforming the commands, and when joined by General Sheridan, Colonel McKibben, et al., went with the troops to the support of General George H. Thomas, then holding the left against tremendous odds. Having taken so distinguished a part in the battle, General Rosecrans requested him to write out a formal report of his actions and observations on the field.

In the great fire of Chicago, October 9th and 10th, 1871, many dispatches were burned, indeed in that conflagration General Ducat lost the greater part of his military treasures. This fact he afterwards communicated to General Rosecrans, who was then in Mexico, and received the following sympathetic reply:

Mexico, April 5th, 1873.

General A. C. Ducat:

Dear Friend: It is a great pity that nearly all the original papers of your military record, so precious to yourself and friends, were destroyed in that terrible conflagration. But there is some satisfaction that the records of the War Department have enough to attest them, and to verify what your friends will be glad to say of so gallant and useful a soldier as yourself during the late War of the Union against the Rebellion.

Your services with me began when I was in command of the Army of the Mississippi, just previous to the battle of Corinth, in which you acted as an Inspector-General on my staff, and bore a gallant and distinguished part during the two memorable days of the contest, as well as during the subsequent pursuit of the enemy.

Soon after the battle I was assigned to the command of the Department of the Cumberland and the Fourteenth Army Corps, and you were offered and accepted the position of Inspector-General on my staff.

In this capacity you elaborated the details of that valuable system which gave such vigor to the Inspector-General's Department of the famous Army of the Cumberland, and the forms of which, with trifling alterations, were subsequently adopted by the United States Army. The importance of this work will be the better appreciated when it is understood that the Inspector-General's Department of the Army of the Cumberland was a new creation,

that of the old regular army having been buried in the mass of volunteer armies improvised and thrown into the field to meet the national danger, and to organize as best they could.

After what I have said in official reports in commendation of your abilities in your department, gallantry in action and tried fidelity to duty, it will not be much to repeat here, my dear General, that while under my command you were distinguished for organizing capacity, clearness, method, diligence, promptitude, untiring industry, irreproachable morals and great gallantry.

I remain yours always,
W. S. ROSECRANS.

CHAPTER VIII.

ON SICK LEAVE—THE COLONELCY OF THE TWELFTH—RESIGNS.

Colonel Ducat was warmly received by Major-General Thomas into his military family. The Inspector-General had been observed and admired by him long before he personally had his assistance on that wild Sunday at Chickamauga. Among Colonel Ducat's military papers are two letters, both of antecedent dates, from General Thomas, one, bearing date of November 8, 1863, expressing concern at the

former's illness and wishing him a speedy recovery, and another of a date one month earlier, enclosing a letter to the Secretary of War recommending him for appointment as Brigadier-General. General Ducat had been very ill of camp dysentery in the fall of 1863, and was permitted to return to Chicago for twenty days to recruit his health. He did not recover as rapidly as he had hoped, and his furlough was extended; and when, after two months' absence, he did rejoin the army, he was far from being strong. In the summer of 1864 his malady returned upon him, and he was again ordered by the army surgeon to proceed north for rest and recuperation. Accordingly he wrote to General Thomas, resigning his position on the General's staff, and received the following written response:

Chattanooga, Tenn., July 22, 1864.

Colonel: Your favor of the 20th was received this morning. I regret deeply that your health compelled you to resign, as we can not spare our efficient and energetic officers. Be assured of my warmest sympathy, and with the hope that quiet and care may in a short time restore you to health, so that you can return to the service, where your energy and zeal will always ensure you a welcome.

I remain, yours very truly,

GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major-General.

On the occasion of Colonel Ducat's finally retiring from the army, Major-General Thomas wrote him:

Colonel: Your favor of the 20th is just received. I regret exceedingly that your health has compelled you to resign from the army. You have my sincere sympathy. You have been an efficient and energetic officer, and can illy be spared from the service. I trust that health may return to you speedily, and that you may have a long and prosperous life.

I remain truly yours,

GEO. H. THOMAS,

U. S. Army Commanding.

Lieut.-Col. A. C. Ducat, Chicago, Ill.

And on the same occasion General U. S. Grant promulgated the following:

Headquarters Military Division
of the Mississippi,
Nashville, Tenn., February 19, 1864.

Lieut.-Col. Ducat leaves the service in consequence of ill health alone. His services have been valuable and fully appreciated by all those under whom he has served, as is shown by the fact that he rose from the position of private, then first lieutenant and adjutant of his regiment to lieutenant-colonel of it, and finally to be inspector-general of the Department of the Cumberland.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

The date of Colonel Ducat's resignation was February 19, 1864. He immediately returned to Chicago, but not at once to business activities, as he was advised by physicians to devote himself exclusively for some time to the regaining of his health. It is certain, too, that he looked forward with more or less confidence to a possible appointment to a position of rank in the regular army, after the war should be over, and so was doubtful as to his ever going again into any business pursuit.

CHAPTER IX.

CHIEFS OF STAFF—DUCAT, GARESCHÉ AND GARFIELD.

General Ducat performed, as has been seen, double duty in the battle of Corinth; he was Assistant Inspector-General on General Rosecrans' staff, and also Acting Chief of Staff. It was known to all who were near to the Commanding General that he was only awaiting the arrival of Colonel Julius Garesché to make that accomplished soldier his Chief of Staff. During the short time Colonel Ducat and Colonel Garesché were together on the

staff, they conceived a great liking for each other, and a genuine friendship was growing up between them, when intercourse was closed by Garesché's death. Some letters written by him and his brother to Colonel Ducat seem to demand a place in this narrative. When in 1863 Colonel Ducat was about to leave headquarters on sick leave, he was expecting to come north by way of Cincinnati, and Garesché learning this, wrote him a letter of introduction to his brother, who was in religious duty at St. Xavier in Cincinnati. The letter was not delivered in person, but sent in the mails from Chicago. Afterwards it was returned to Colonel Ducat. This is it:

Camp near Lavergne, Tenn.,
Sunday, December 28, 1863.

My Dear Brother: I have had no time to write to you. But let me now introduce to you one whom in a very short time I have learned to esteem and regard as an old friend, and whom I have requested to call on you. Receive him as my friend, dear brother. He will tell you all about me, and that I have no leisure now to write. I forgot to name Lieut.-Col. Ducat, Assistant Inspector-General on General Rosecrans' staff. The General thinks all the world of him; and there is but one thing wanting in him—which is, that he

should become a Catholic. Kind regards to all the Fathers, and believe me as ever,

Your affectionate brother and friend,

JULIUS GARESCHÉ.

Garesché's brother having received the foregoing letter in due course of mail, acknowledged the receipt of it in the following touching epistle:

St. Xavier, Cincinnati, Ohio,
February 17, 1863.

Lieut.-Col. Ducat, U. S. A.:

Dear Sir: Your kind letter of the 29th ult., was duly received, and makes me regret that your route did not lie through Cincinnati. If you, who knew him for so short a time, became so much attached to him, think what must be our love for him, whom we have always regarded as a model in our family. In this unhappy war, families have been cruelly divided, and I have seen a brother cursing another, though he supposed him mortally wounded; but such was the attachment to Julius that he was loved if possible even more than before, by those of his family who did not approve his judgment, though they defended his course.

The letter which you enclosed to me was like a voice from the tomb. I have heard before of the feelings which such incidents excite, but I did not anticipate how melancholy and yet how consoling they are. You say the letter is mine. I thank your kindness for allowing a claim which

I could not have made, since it permits me to return in some slight measure the favor you have conferred.

I have delayed this answer in hopes to send you a photograph of poor Jules, but I have not yet received the copies which were sent me. As soon as I do so, I will take the liberty of forwarding one to your address.

I hope, my dear sir (I was about to write friend), that you will ponder the hint contained in the last paragraph of the letter which you so highly prize. I cannot more than allude to the subject, for I should be doubtful of the propriety of so much, were it not for the circumstances of the case.

Yours gratefully,

F. P. GARESCHÉ.

The third chief in succession of the staff of General Rosecrans was General James A. Garfield (afterwards President of the United States), who entered the service as Lieutenant-Colonel of an Ohio regiment. He was constantly with Colonel Ducat, and came to know him well, and afterwards he had this to say of him:

"I never knew a man who hated humbug, red tape and circumlocution as much as Ducat did. He made short cuts to whatever was to be done, or whatever he had to do, he was direct and forcible, restless under long instruc-

tions, discussions and iteration. He had a quick and comprehensive mind, and was so prompt that we had to consider things were, before they were given to him to do. He never disobeyed an order, but supported his superiors to his fullest ability, even when his judgment did not approve. He was in himself a model example of thorough discipline."

As early as 1863 many of the commanding officers of the Army of the Cumberland united in recommending him for appointment as Brigadier-General. This was at a time when Ducat would have been satisfied with having the colonelcy of his regiment, to which he was entitled and which had been so many times promised him. General Garfield wrote:

Winchester, Tenn., August 1, 1863.

E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

Dear Sir: Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Ducat has been inspector general of this department since November, 1862. He may be justly said to have originated and set in operation our whole system of inspection, which has done more for the efficiency of this army than any other influence. He is a most thorough and able soldier, who has adorned every position he has filled. I know of but few men anywhere so worthy to fill the position of brigadier-general as he, and I earnestly recommend his appointment. He has served with

marked distinction in other fields before entering this department.

JAMES A. GARFIELD.

CHAPTER X.

AGAIN IN THE INSURANCE BUSINESS—MANAGER OF A GREAT COMPANY.

General Ducat's health was more seriously impaired than he was told by his physician, or than he was willing to believe. He was, however, advised against engaging in any exacting business; but he had long neglected business matters that needed to be put in order and so, though he regarded himself as without an occupation, he was not altogether idle. And in the meantime his friends in the regular army and particularly the officers with whom he had served were using their influence to bring him back into the service. They believed they would succeed in their friendly purpose and as health improved he had more and more hopes of returning to army life. His application was for brigadier-generalship in the active service. At last an appointment as brigadier-general was received by him, but it was

for the Invalid Corps, and he promptly declined it. He was now as well as he ever could expect to be, and he preferred going into business than into the army on such terms. Finally, on July 12th, 1866, he received his appointment brevet brigadier-general "for meritorious services during the war," which was purely complimentary. As soon as it was known that General Ducat's health was sufficiently restored to permit him resuming business, a number of the greatest insurance companies, having their homes in New York, New Haven, Hartford or Boston, or in London, each made him advantageous proposals, looking to secure his influence and services exclusively at Chicago for that city and a large part of the West. It was an affluent field of promise thus spread out before him, and no matter what his choice might have been of a company to represent in it, he could not have failed of splendid success. To make a choice was difficult, but the proposal of the Home Insurance Company of New York impressed him as being more favorable than any other, and accordingly he entered into contract with them in 1866, and immediately opened up in Chicago commodious

and handsome offices, and began operations with even more than his old judgment and vigor. From that date, and as long as General Ducat represented the "Home" company, its record in city and country, within the Western Department, was one of the most comprehensive successes. In a short time he easily placed his company at the very head of all the companies then doing insurance in this extensive region. Through the connection he attained great prosperity, and the company through him gained large profits. He was by all that were acquainted with the facts of underwriting regarded as a most judicious and safe agent, and equally a safe and true friend of the holders of policies. He ever recognized the equities as between insurers and the insured, and consistently acting on those equities, he obtained the confidence of the owners of insurable property, and at the same time made solid the position of his company before the public.

Subsequently he was offered and accepted the agencies of the Manhattan, Howard and Citizens Insurance Companies of New York, and with this additional support to his representation of the Home, in the West, he very

greatly increased his professional influence and importance.

The year 1866 was a prosperous one for insurance companies, and especially was it so in relation to their transactions in Chicago. The population of the city had increased to 200,000 and was rapidly growing; the money value of individual buildings was constantly and vastly increasing; and so, not only the number of policies written, but the amounts they represented, were doubled twice over those of any former year. Agents from all quarters began suddenly to pour into the city. The sharpness of the competition between companies was now felt as never before. Again, therefore, there was danger that the rules and regulations established by the Board of Underwriters, and approved by the most prominent Eastern companies, would be, in many instances disregarded, and that the board itself might be broken up. It required all of General Ducat's energies and skill and all his influence to hold the majority of agents in line. The other leading agents of intelligence were of course with him and greatly assisted. Many an agent was a leader, but General Ducat was THE leader, and as such he was universally re-

garded. If battles were to be fought in the board he was among the first to be selected to direct the forces of union and discretion and to conduct negotiations. If important measures were to be attempted with the great companies by personal visits to the East and elsewhere, he was, in most instances, chosen for the service. If legislation was desired in and for this State, bearing on the business of insurance, he was among those delegated to visit the State capital to suggest and watch bills, and to inform the members of the Legislature as to the needs of the profession, if the interests at once of the companies and the people at large were to be safeguarded.

It has to be said that the lingering prestige of the Board of Underwriters, more than the positive assertion of its powers, carried the whole body of underwriters over the confused period from 1861-2 to 1867. That saving prestige was greatly owing to splendid efforts put forth by General Ducat in the time before the war. During the interval the strongest among the companies were able to maintain for the most part their rates, the old rates of the board. But there was cutting by the weaker companies, and the dozens of new and mostly

clientless companies, that about that time made their appearance in Chicago, had a most demoralizing effect. Now, again, and with a conquering will, General Ducat strove to have adopted for one and all a definite and binding tariff. A majority of the board, which was a majority of all the agents in the city, once more agreed to abide by a fixed classification of risks; but not so the minority, made up of representatives of certain Eastern companies, who became restive under the board's undeviating control. They were the weaker Eastern companies, and they hoped for some advantage in revolt. There were a number of regretted secessions from the board; but the resolute majority, with General Ducat at their head, stood and fought the battle out. The struggle lasted for nearly a year, between the board and its opponents—the interference of the National Board was asked for; upon what decision the National Board should render depended apparently the very existence of the Chicago organization. The decision was not forthcoming, and fortunately at last it was not needed, as the opposition relented and came back into the board, and afterwards all the members worked together in a community

of interest, for mutual protection under a fixed tariff of rates and rules, of sound and healthy practice of underwriting.

All this time General Ducat was not once unmindful of the importance to insurance interests of a competent city fire department. His suggestions to the fire chief were many and timely and generally were well taken. He continued to strengthen, out of contributions by the insurance companies, the fire brigade which originally was his own creation, and of which he was the first captain. He was also a member of the Citizens' Association, one of whose objects was to better and encourage the organization of firemen. While thus devoted to the public interest, and to the general interest of the Board of Underwriters, he did not at all neglect those of his own companies. At the time of the great fire, which was now about to come upon Chicago, he had out for the Home alone between two and three thousand policies, representing nearly $9,000,000. Nearly a thousand policies covered buildings that were destroyed in the conflagration. Some $3,500,000 were promptly paid to policy holders, and every dollar without a word of quibbling, nor the delay of an hour longer than

was necessary. The cheerful alacrity displayed by General Ducat in the settlement of all claims, and his painstaking assistance rendered in their adjustment where policies had been destroyed by the fire, and his liberality shown in every way, made a magnificent record for him and for his companies.

Long before this time the city had become too large for the Fire Brigade, under its organization of narrow scope. An organization of somewhat a similar nature, but a hundred-fold larger and stronger, was imperatively required, in the interest both of the insurance companies and the citizens. General Ducat suggested a Fire Patrol, to be modeled after something of the kind in New York City. The Board of Underwriters considered the matter, and after such information as could be had from New York, a committee, of which General Ducat was chairman, was appointed to organize and perfect a Fire Patrol, and to procure a fitting equipment for it. The work of the committee was completed September 29, and the Patrol made its first appearance on the streets October 2, 1871. But it was not in possession of a full equipment till a few days later. On the Saturday immediately before the great fire its

new and brilliantly painted carts arrived, and the carefully selected horses were harnessed to them, all the men turned out in clean uniform suits and hats of glaze, and with considerable pride and pomp showed themselves to the public. It was exclusively the affair of the insurance companies; they jointly purchased the equipment; they proposed alone to pay the cost of maintaining the Patrol. They appointed—at General Ducat's request—Benjamin B. Bulwinkle to be the head of the Patrol. A home for the carts and stabling for the horses and bunks for the men, these had all been provided in a convenient quarter. But unfortunately it was in a quarter that was early reached by the conflagration which began the next day, and the Patrol and its belongings was consumed in it. Some of the companies that had contributed to organize and support it were rendered insolvent, and for a short time its reorganization was delayed; but the original friends, who had once given it body and life, were equal to the task of reviving and perpetuating it. For two or three years the task was hard, but by 1875 the organization was secure, and measures were taken to render it perfect. A committee of the Board of Un-

derwriters was appointed to prepare rules and regulations for the government of the Fire Patrol. General Ducat was at the head of the committee, consisting of himself, General C. W. Drew and Thomas Buckley, and the rules and regulations were largely of his devising. They had a military cast, and were promulgated in true military fashion. The Fire Patrol thus organized, equipped and started on its career of unsurpassed usefulness, was a great achievements; and while the credit of its creation and promotion has to be divided among several, it is only bare justice to say that General Ducat is entitled to a large share of it. He lived to see the Patrol brought to a stage of development which even he, possibly, never at the beginning dreamed of. He watched it incessantly, so long as he did live, and the chairman of the Fire Patrol Committee for some years past and the present year, Mr. James L. Ross, imparts the information that the General was to the last a frequent visitor to the different offices and stations of the organization, giving helpful advice to the chairman and cheering the men. It has grown to be an organization commanding from convenient points the entire city, and though the

cost of its maintenance is upwards of $75,000 annually, its saving to the insurance companies in salvages is often, at a single fire, as much or more than that large sum.

General Ducat was alone in the management in the West of the Home Insurance Company of New York and his other companies, until 1873, when he took Mr. George M. Lyon into partnership. The partnership continued until the General's death. The firm of Ducat & Lyon was highly prosperous the whole time of its existence, and had the unwavering confidence of the entire public.

An incident connected with General Ducat's administration of the Home Insurance Company's affairs in Chicago is presented for insertion here by Mr. W. L. B. Jenney, an architect of high standing and celebrity. It relates to the style of steel construction of huge city buildings, and goes far to prove that General Ducat was in part the inventor of that order of construction, while it proves absolutely that Mr. Jenney was, if not the sole, unaided inventor, then that he had the greatest share in the invention, and was the first who ever erected an important structure on that system. Following is the letter:

Chicago, Ill., April 19, 1897.

I first met General Charles Arthur Ducat at Cairo in the early days of the rebellion. I was in charge of the engineer works at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi, and at the time was building a fort at Cairo Point. Colonel J. D. Webster, Chief of Staff to General Grant, introduced us and informed me that General Ducat, who was then Major of the Twelfth Illinois Infantry, was an engineer, and that he had kindly offered his services whenever he was off duty, which I was only too glad to accept, and until the Fort was completed Ducat spent considerable of his time in charge of certain portions of the work.

In 1868, when I first came to Chicago, I found General Ducat, and we renewed old associations. In 1883, when the Home Insurance Company proposed to erect a building in Chicago, Ducat kindly recommended me to be their architect.

The problem presented by the owners for the first time, was to erect on a very compressible soil a tall heavy building, divided above the second floor into the maximum number of small offices and necessitating a large number of windows of moderate size, reducing the piers between windows to dimensions too small to carry the loads, if built of ordinary masonry; hence, it became necessary to build metal columns in the piers. To avoid the inconvenience from expansion and contraction and to make the construction more homogenous, the outside walls and floors were to be carried, story by story, independently on the columns.

General Ducat was the company's representative in Chicago for the construction of this building, and we were daily in consultation. I explained to him the construction I proposed to adopt, which was then entirely new, and which grew out of the necessities of the case presented for the first time. He evidently gave the matter considerable thought. I often noticed him studying over the drawings an hour at a time, without, however, expressing any opinion in regard to the merits of the new system.

At length the designs were completed. The president of the company, Mr. Charles J. Martin, the chairman of the building committee, Mr. Carter, and the other members of the committee, met in my office. I explained the designs. President Martin asked where there was such a building. I replied, that that building would be the first. As business men, they naturally asked how I knew that it would be successful, and the best that could, under the circumstances, be devised? I replied that I was ready to submit my designs and calculations to any eminent bridge engineers; that the construction resembled to a considerable extent iron railway bridges standing on end, side by side. General Ducat, as he was not a member of the committee, requested to be allowed to make a few remarks. He stated that he was an engineer before he was an insurance man; he had carefully studied the designs, during their progress from their first incipiency to their completion; that he had informed himself in regard to every detail; that up to the present time he had

given no opinion, but now he was ready to endorse the designs, constructively and economically, and recommend that they be adopted and the work commenced. The motion to that effect was made, seconded, carried unanimously, and the contracts were awarded.

During the entire construction of the building he was the representative of the building committee in Chicago, and as the company's architect I reported directly to him. He took a most active interest in every minutia of the details, and often made valuable suggestions.

Yours very truly,

W. L. B. JENNEY.

CHAPTER XI.

ARMY-MADE FRIENDS—MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION.

Though deeply immersed in business, and now become a man of mark in civil life, General Ducat still did not once forget his old army friends. Many of them at a distance, he corresponded with; and those who lived in his own city or section he ever sought to be on friendliest terms with. He warmly approved of the organization of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was, in the early days of it, a

frequent visitor at some of its posts. And he hailed with enthusiasm the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, as one in which ex-officers would be sure to renew and perpetuate army-made friendships. A few words of the history of this order will suffice to show how much he had to do with the procuring to be organized in Chicago the Commandery of Illinois.

In 1865, the year in which the war closed, and one day after the assassination of President Lincoln, a few ex-officers of the army—some authorities say their number was as low as three, and all residents of Philadelphia, Pa. —met in Independence Hall, of that city, and devised a scheme for a commemorative and patriotic society, whose members should all have held commissions in the army or navy or marine corps of the United States. A constitution and by-laws were framed, officers elected, and from that day the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, U. S., was established. The first elected member of the society was Abraham Lincoln, and he, at the moment of his election, was lying dead in the Executive Mansion at Washington. He never having held a commission in the army, although he was constitutional commander-in-chief of the military and

naval forces of the United States, he was necessarily elected as an honorary member only. The order was of slow growth for some time, and at first there seemed a purpose in many influential quarters to discourage its projectors and advocates. Here and there the historical fact was recalled, that the very similar order that Washington and the officers of the Revolutionary Army founded—the Society of the Cincinnati—was in the time of it unpopular, and that its members were accused of designs inimical to the democratic character of popular institutions. The principle of succession, by which the eldest son of a member should be entitled to his father's place on his death, it was pointed out, was regarded in the former time with general and extreme disfavor; and that very principle of succession was in the constitution of the Loyal Legion. But times had a good deal changed, and institutions somewhat, and soon it was seen that the objection was not sustained by the general judgment. One gallant general after another became members, and here and there a popular colonel or major or captain or lieutenant joined the order; and soon it appeared certain that

nothing was likely to interrupt the order's progress.

For a considerable period the Pennsylvania Commandery, at Philadelphia, was the only one, and old soldiers residing in other places were obliged to make application for membership in the "Acting Chief Commandery," at Philadelphia, if they would share in the privileges and honors of the order. Many did so make application, and among them was Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan. He had known General Ducat well in the service, and now he was stationed at Chicago, and had opportunities of seeing his friend almost daily. He was desirous that this particular army friend of his should too become a member of the Loyal Legion, and so expressed himself, and volunteered to recommend him to the Pennsylvania Commandery. He accordingly wrote the following letter:

Chicago, June 9, 1878.

My Dear Col. Mitchell: It gives me great pleasure to recommend for a companionship of the first class, in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States of America and of the Commandery of Pennsylvania, General Arthur C. Ducat.

I have known General Ducat for many years.

He served as Inspector General of the Army of the Cumberland, during most of the time I was connected with that army. He was an officer of high standing and distinguished merit during that time and for the period of the war. He now commands all the military organizations of this state, and possesses all the qualities necessary to make him a desirable member of the order.

Yours truly,

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

To Lieut.-Col. S. B. Wylie Mitchell, Secretary of L. L. U. S.

This application was of course successful, both on account of the influential source of it, and the good reputation of the gentleman so proposed for membership. In due course General Ducat was advised of his election; he qualified as an enrolled companion, and more than once made trips to Philadelphia on purpose to be present at meetings of the order. He soon became greatly interested, and wished for the establishment of a Commandery at Chicago. He made sure that other old soldiers of this city would be glad to join a local Commandery, and then wrote to the Pennsylvania Commandery for information how to proceed in the matter. To his letter he received a reply, which was as follows:

Military Order Loyal Legion U. S.
Headquarters, Commandery No. 1,
State of Pennsylvania.
Philadelphia, January 8th, 1879.

Col. Arthur C. Ducat, Chicago, Illinois:

Sir: Your communication of the 29th ultimo, addressed to Brevet-Major-General Wm. D. Whipple, U. S. A., asking how to proceed in the establishment of a Commandery of the Loyal Legion in Chicago, has been referred by the general to the undersigned, as the Recorder of said order, with the request to communicate the necessary information.

Accordingly I take pleasure in sending you a copy of the constitution and by-laws, and respectfully invite your attention to the following articles:

V., p. 9, on members.

VI., sec. 1, p. 10, on election of members—and

XXI., sec. 1, p. 33, on district commanders.

If, therefore, you forward to these headquarters an application for the institution of a Commandery in the State of Illinois, it should be signed by, at least, thirteen (13) officers or ex-officers of the army or navy, residents of Chicago; and be accompanied with the military history of each. As for the required recommendations, I will unite with General Whipple; and from the manner in which my friend Brevet-Lieut.-Col. Kilburn Knox of the army has on several occasions spoken of you, in this connection, to me, I am fully assured he will vouch for any one that you may propose for membership.

The enclosed forms explain themselves.

On reference to Art. VI., sec. 1, p. 55 of the by-laws, you will perceive that this order is neither now, nor never will be, a political organization. Its purposes are somewhat similar to those of that almost extinct society of the Revolution, the Order of the Cincinnati.

Any assistance that it may be in my power to render you in this matter will be most cheerfully accorded.

The next meeting of the acting commandery-in-chief of the order will be held on February 3d, proximo.

I have the honor to be, Colonel, very respectfully, Your obedient servant,

S. B. WYLIE MITCHELL,
Recorder.

Acting on information contained in the above letter, General Ducat and the gentlemen interested with him in the enterprise, immediately began work upon the preliminaries for the organization, and establishment in Chicago, of the Commandery of the State of Illinois, of the Loyal Legion. The organization was effected and the Commandery instituted May 8, 1879. Four officers and ten ex-officers appeared, and qualified as charter members. These were—Lieut.-Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, U. S. A., Bvt.-Maj.-Gen. Delos B. Sacket, U.

S. A., and Bvt.-Maj.-Gen. Rufus Ingalls, U. S. A.; together with the following, all of the U. S. Volunteers: Bvt.-Maj.-Gen. John M. Corse, Bvt.-Maj.-Gen. Augustus L. Chetlain, Bvt.-Brig.-Gen. Arthur C. Ducat, Brig.-Gen. Luther P. Bradley, Col. John Mason Loomis, Bvt.-Lieut.-Col. James J. Hoyt, Bvt.-Maj. Taylor P. Rundlet, Bvt.-Lieut.-Col. Henry W. Farrar, Bvt.-Maj. George T. Burroughs, and Capt. James C. White. The first commander was Lieut.-Gen. Philip H. Sheridan. The order rapidly increased its numbers after the first few months of its existence. Of elected members, Capt. Roswell H. Mason is the senior, he having been first to join after the organization. Gen. U. S. Grant was an early member; Rutherford B. Hayes soon joined, as also did General Logan and many other distinguished officers, who were also eminent as citizens. Captain Richard Robins was the first recorder. He served one year, when Col. C. W. Davis was chosen such officer, and he held the post continuously until within the present year (1897), when he resigned, and Capt. R. H. Mason was elected to succeed him. The membership, which at the beginning was only fourteen, is now five hundred and ninety-six.

General Ducat was proud of his connection with this patriotic order, and for his fellow members he ever entertained very warm feelings of friendship and regard. These feelings were reciprocated by the members, as was shown in many ways and from time to time. The principal offices of the Commandery were by promotion conferred upon him, he having been elected Junior Vice-Commander to serve from May, 1879, to May, 1880, and again to the same office to serve from May, 1884, to May, 1885. He was Senior Vice-Commander in 1885 for one year, and Commander from 1886 to 1887. It is the testimony of all the members, that no commander the order has ever had has surpassed him in popularity and influence.

Reference has been made to the principle of inheritance in the constitution of the Loyal Legion. It will perhaps be a surprise to some of the best informed members, upon matters connected with the order, to learn that since the Illinois Commandery was instituted, there have been one hundred and thirty-four cases of membership by succession. And one of these is that of Arthur Charles Ducat, Jr., who was educated at West Point, and is Captain in the Twenty-fourth Infantry, U. S. Army.

CHAPTER XII.

BUYS TRACTS OF LAND—TRAVELS ABROAD.

In 1868 General Ducat first began to gratify his inherited passion for ownership of lands. Since commencing business at Chicago his home had been in the city, and sometimes in the West Division, sometimes in the North Division, but his constant longing was to have an establishment in the country. The suburban towns were then all new, and hardly to be distinguished from the open country which surrounded them. Evanston, now the largest of Chicago's suburbs, had, in 1868, not many inhabitants, and handsome improvements there were few and far between. Its situation close by the great lake proved very attractive to him, and accordingly he purchased lots there in the finest portion of the town, which he liberally improved by the planting of trees and shrubbery, and the laying off and cultivating an extensive lawn. He built a house there and for a number of years it was his home. Evanston was growing and

improving, his property was increasing in value, and now he saw, and improved, opportunities to invest in other blocks and lots in the vicinity, as a speculation. In time he became a large owner of land at different points along that region of the lake shore. Finally he disposed of the homestead and removed from the town, though he still owned a good deal of landed property there.

General Ducat had always a great liking for Geneva Lake, Wis., to which his attention was first called when he was employed in railroad surveys, and about 1870 he purchased a small but beautiful tract of land on the lake front. His improvements, however, were very modest, consisting only of a cottage, boathouse and other buildings. He was exceedingly fond of boating, and he organized a Yachting Club, of which he was the chief and which prospered under his direction. He delighted in handling the boats and spent a great deal of time on the water. This place he afterwards sold, but purchased a larger tract of land in the vicinity further up the lake. He did not improve this, but added to its size by additional purchases, as he always had great faith in the attractions of the charming lake

and its beautiful borders, and so, at the time of his death, he was the owner of many choice sites there for country seats.

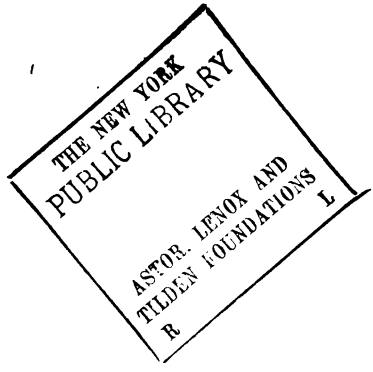
General Ducat was also at the same time interested with a number of friends in the Linden Heights Association, which secured about eight hundred acres of magnificent farm and forest land near Downer's Grove, Du Page County, Illinois, and of this tract he eventually became the sole owner by purchase from the other stockholders.

Preferring a country residence for his family he built a house on his property in Downer's Grove. There he lived the life of an English country gentleman, so far as business would allow him. An enthusiastic sportsman, he took great interest in his horses and dogs. Indeed he was as proud as he was fond of his dogs, and one of them, "Brow" by name, he thought fine enough for General P. H. Sheridan to own. Accordingly he sent him as a present to the general at Washington, where he arrived safely, as the following letter will testify:

Washington, D. C., April 23rd, 1888.

My Dear General Ducat: The dog Brow came through to us all right, and turns out to be a beau-

LINDENWALD.


THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
R
L

tiful animal. Mrs. Sheridan and myself, and all the children, send to you our sincere thanks for your kindness and consideration. We fully appreciate your gift, and will always keep you in our memories, and on my part not only from the old ties of the War, when we served together, but also from the pleasant relations of friendship which have always been in our hearts.

Yours very truly,
P. H. SHERIDAN.

The only drawback, at this period, to General Ducat's happiness was his bad health. Disease that he contracted in the army was still troubling him and he found it necessary to give up business for a time and travel; for if he remained at home, so pressing and prosperous was his business, that he could not well give it up for even a week. It was not the first time he had been in Europe since he left Ireland for the United States. In 1873, he, in company with Mr. Martin, the president of the Home Insurance Company of New York (the company which the General particularly represented in Chicago), had gone to Ireland to view the old homes and to visit in Dublin; and he afterwards traveled on the continent. Thus he was to enjoy and profit by a second extensive tour in foreign lands. He made a con-

siderable sojourn in Paris, and was there treated for his ailments by the best physicians. After an absence of several months, he returned home apparently improved in health, and resumed business.

In 1888 a pleasant incident occurred at "Lindenwald," for so he had named his home at Downer's Grove, in a visit that his comrades and friends of the Loyal Legion paid him. It was shortly after the expiration of his term of office as Commander of the Order in Illinois. They came out in force and were cordially, even affectionately welcomed, and royally entertained. He liberally provided them with pleasures that by some are not forgotten to this day.

An imperial photograph, finely executed, of the ex-officers of the Union army, grouped in the shade of old trees at "Lindenwald," is made one of the historical decorations on the walls of the rooms of the Loyal Legion, Illinois Commandery.

Upon the company's return to the city, a committee, of which General William E. Strong was chairman, was raised from among the gentlemen named in the foregoing list to make to General Ducat some acknowledgment

of his splendid hospitality. The letter which the committee sent him shows the form which the acknowledgment was made to take:

Chicago, ——— 14th, 1888.

General Arthur C. Ducat,
Downer's Grove, Ill.

Dear General: In behalf of all your companions of the Illinois Commandery of the Loyal Legion, your guests at Downer's Grove, on Saturday, June 23rd, last, I send with this a "loving cup." It is but a trifling gift, yet it may serve to remind you of the high esteem and tender regard in which you are held by all your companions of the Loyal Legion. In sending this token of our remembrance, we also bear in mind that the pleasure of that most hospitable occasion was largely due to the presence of one near and dear to you; and speaking for those whom I have the honor to represent, and by their direction, I desire to convey to Mrs. Ducat through you, their grateful appreciation of her grace and courtesy towards your friends.

Accept, then, dear General, this cup, and with it the love and admiration of all your companions. They hope for you many years of happiness at your beautiful home, and the fullest measure of success in every enterprise in which you may engage. Ever sincerely yours,

WILLIAM E. STRONG,
Chairman.

But General Ducat did not allow himself many holidays, appointed either by himself or his friends; and after three years more of close attention to business, his health seemed about to fail him again, and he was advised by his physicians to take another vacation. He accordingly made a third trip to Ireland, England and the continent. Again after a few months' absence, he returned to his home, having derived some benefit from his travels, and took up once more his business cares.

CHAPTER XIII.

ILLINOIS MILITIA—DIVISION OF NATIONAL GUARD OF ILLINOIS.

(If successive dates were followed, the present and the two succeeding chapters should have place at a distance back in this volume. But as the subject of which they treat is military, but having to do only with a single State, it has been thought best to separate them by some space from the chapters relating to the War of the Rebellion and to the Army of the United States. Besides, it would appear to be inconvenient to interrupt the general narrative at any other point than this, to insert the present chapters.)

Illinois, which had been one of the first of the States to send her quota of fighting men into the war to suppress the Rebellion, was, after the close of the war slower than many of the States to provide herself with an improved and adequate militia. Illinois was by no means exhausted by the war; but there was a resulting lassitude as regarded military exertion felt by nearly all the people that occasioned the almost total loss of interest in the remains of the old militia. The law under which the enfeebled militia was with difficulty kept organized, was not then of recent date and was held to be antiquated. In 1874 there was observed to be a degree of socialistic unrest in certain sections of the population, which was thought to bode evil, and which before the year was out, actually produced evil and peril in the frequent assemblage of angry and desperate persons, who threatened to disturb the peace for the purpose of plunder. People of Chicago were the first to be made aware of the perilous discontent, and to take the alarm.

The thoughts of all were of a revived militia. General Ducat was among the foremost of good citizens to promote the raising of new military companies under the State law, in

place of those that had been disbanded or reduced in numbers and disciplined below the point of efficiency. During the year six companies were recruited and equipped by individual subscription, and indifferently armed by the State. They were regimented and named the First Regiment. In the winter of 1874 the Legislature revised and put new life into the existing militia law, and authorized the raising of a certain number of battalions, and the appointment of as many brigadier-generals as the Governor might deem best. There was now a full brigade of soldiers in Chicago and vicinity, but there was no general to command it. Arthur C. Ducat was the unanimous choice of the brigade, and of the non-military portion of the people as well, for the position—he was the Governor's choice, too—and accordingly, on April 8th, 1875, Governor Beveridge appointed and commissioned him Brigadier-General of the Illinois Militia. In the meantime the First Regiment had not been formally received by the executive of the State, and now a day was appointed for the ceremony, which, it was arranged, should take place in South Park, then just outside the limits of Chicago. The command was reviewed by Governor Bev-

eridge, Lieut.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan, and Brig.-Gen. Ducat. This was his first appearance before the brigade.

General Ducat never undertook to do anything that he did not think worth the doing well; and above all things, he regarded an inefficient body of military with contempt. He saw by a glance at the militia law that no really good results could be had under it. He resolved quickly that if his exertions could avail, a better law should be enacted. For a year and more he bent his energies to that end. But in the meantime he labored diligently to introduce discipline into the force as it came to his hand, and it is impossible not to credit him with doing much. Military discipline is a term that was not well understood by militiamen at the time, and numbers of them thought to give their General trouble on that score. No doubt some of the General's measures were of a positive and radical character—he was not a man to permit any question or hesitation where he was rightfully in command—and yet, he was ever submissive to superior authority, exercised in the interests of the service. Hence he had a perfect understanding with the Governor, who is the commander-in-chief. When

he was complained of to the Governor for some of his acts of discipline, he waited respectfully while the complaints were being investigated, but at the same time he had ready his resignation in case the decision should be against enforcing his orders. But that was not the decision; the Governor sustained him in every particular. Thereupon General Ducat drew up and submitted a more perfect plan for the organization and discipline of the State troops, which the adjutant-general acknowledged was of immense service to him. In that officer's report to the Governor for 1875-6 is this paragraph: "I desire here to say that great praise is due to Brig.-Gen. Arthur C. Ducat, and his staff officers, for the able and efficient manner in which they have performed their duties. This department is largely indebted to these gentlemen for their able assistance and generous advice." General Ducat made many visits throughout the State, for the purpose of inspecting and reviewing the different local commands, and he was everywhere received with enthusiasm. This encouraged him to prepare a bill to be submitted to the Legislature, for a militia law that should afford a revenue sufficient to pay for the necessi-

ties of the service, and a sanction for the enforcement of discipline. He called to Chicago the commanding officers of the regiments and battalions to assist in the preparation of the bill. The officers did not heed the summons in sufficient numbers, but so much in earnest was the general that he, with his staff, did the work he had intended the commission should do, and by the time the Legislature assembled the new bill was ready. His staff was composed of his friends, and all of them experienced soldiers of the late war, namely, Colonel Waterman, General Strong, Major Coe, Lieutenant-Colonel Collins and Dr. Ben C. Miller, surgeon. Then the General prepared and issued a circular addressed "To the members of all organized companies and battalions of Illinois Militia" announcing:

At our next Legislature a new militia bill will be introduced, of which the principal features will be a yearly appropriation to meet the expenses for rent of armories, ordnance stores, camp equipage and transportation of all battalions for at least one yearly muster, and for ammunition and a rifle range for practice, with an allowance per diem for every man who shall turn out upon order, and with such provisions for the perfection of the discipline as may secure an effective and creditable soldier.

I need not dwell upon the necessity of a better militia organization in Illinois, for it is plain to you all in case of any disturbance or riot, especially in our large cities, the community would be comparatively helpless, and at the mercy of mob violence, but for the individual efforts already put forth, which cannot much longer be sustained without State support.

This circular is sent to all commanders of companies and battalions throughout the State, in the earnest hope that this movement will have the hearty co-operation of all. If every company as a body, will take such action, so that it may be known that its influence will be given to that candidate for the Legislature who will pledge himself to vote for a new militia bill, it will be carried by an overwhelming majority, and we shall then enter upon an entirely new phase of military experience.

The General commanding, hopes to be able to announce before long that all infantry troops without an exception, will be armed with the government breech-loader, and that a general muster will be had as early as in the summer of 1877.

ARTHUR C. DUCAT,
Brigadier-General.

The General sent a copy of the bill to the adjutant-general, and a letter explaining its provisions, and urging upon him the importance of its becoming a law. He did not think it perfect. "There was nothing left for me to

do but to get up a bill myself, or let the matter entirely go by default. The result was that, by giving my personal attention to it, and being seconded by the suggestions of my staff, I fixed upon the present bill now in your hands. We none of us think it perfect." But he did not want it amended in committee or in open session. The point with him was, to get something passed as an entering wedge. "When we have it enacted into a law, then at a future time you may come forward with amendments." He had never been a member of a legislative body, but he knew legislative tactics and chances as well as though he had practiced them, and not military tactics, all his life. Largely by his insistence the bill was passed, and received the Governor's approval May 18, 1877. There was a new Governor—Shelby M. Cullom—and under the new law he was required to appoint and commission a major-general of the Illinois National Guard.

CHAPTER XIV.

COMMISSIONED MAJOR-GENERAL—ACTIVE DUTY TO SUPPRESS THE RIOTS OF 1877.

Governor Cullom at once appointed Brigadier-General Ducat to be Major-General of the Division of Illinois National Guard, and on July 7 he received his commission. The great "railroad riots" which began at Pittsburg, Pa., the last of June, 1877, and caused there the loss of many lives and the destruction of three millions of property in buildings, and then swept on towards Chicago, reached here with apparently unabated fury on July 28. The responsibility, so far as the military was concerned, of suppressing them, fell upon General Ducat. He was at Geneva Lake, Wis., when a telegram reached him relative to the threatening attitude of affairs. He lost no time in coming here, arriving that same day, and immediately assuming command of the militia quartered here.

That night a meeting of so-called working men was being held on Market Street. Gen-

eral Ducat, considering the inflammable condition of public sentiment among that class, thought it unwise to permit the gathering and recommended that it be dispersed by force, if necessary. Mayor Heath replied that having given permission for the meeting to be held he thought it unwise to interfere, as it would infringe on popular rights and might precipitate violence.

General Ducat then suggested that the Mayor proceed to the place of meeting and quietly request the people to go home. If they were law-abiding citizens they would obey their chief magistrate; if not, they should be driven with bayonets, or bullets, or both.

The Mayor, however, refused to interfere.

On the 24th, General Ducat telegraphed to Governor Cullom, recommending the concentration of troops at Chicago in view of the outrages committed at the East, and for fear the railroads might be unavailable for their transportation later on.

Up to the next day the Mayor was opposed to army concentration, but at that period, matters became more threatening and he urged the sending in of all United States and other troops that could be found.

On the 26th General Ducat telegraphed Governor Cullom information that there were six companies of the Ninth United States Infantry at Rock Island, which could be used at once if the War Department were so requested. He added that things in Chicago "look nasty." Governor Cullom made the necessary request and the troops came.

In fact, every order issued by General Ducat was in favor of action. He urged the Mayor, at the outset, to let the militia settle the mob. Mayor Heath did not allow it. He told the Mayor that the mob would gain strength if not at once dispersed.

On the 27th the following peremptory order was issued to General Joseph T. Torrence commanding the First Brigade:

Division Headquarters, I. S. G.,
Chicago, July 27th.

General: In the event of any violence toward the police or military in dispersing the mob in the southwest part of the city, attack with vigor, disperse and drive them, making all the arrests possible. By order of

ARTHUR C. DUCAT,
Major-General Commanding.

George J. Waterman, Chief of Staff.

When the fight broke out at the viaduct the Mayor was asked if the police wanted support. General Ducat offered to lead a regiment in person, but that was considered unnecessary.

In regard to the distribution of troops at threatened points detachments were sent to Chicago Avenue and Milwaukee Avenue to support the police. Three companies were sent to Halsted Street viaduct and three companies to the Twelfth Street station.

The other troops were held in mass, so as to be available in case of an attack in force by the insurgents on the business portion of the south side, where banks, express offices, and stores would be in danger of being gutted. It was thought best not to split the soldiers up into small detachments as the force numbered only five hundred men all told, certainly not a very gigantic body of defenders for so large a city. The General asked no advice in the disposition of his troops, and did not consider any necessary. He was at all times prepared to disperse mobs, if permitted, as the orders and recommendations on file plainly showed. He would have defended the city without permission if it had been seriously threatened, and

he considered it would have been poor military policy to have acted in any other manner.

The presence in the city at the head of the military of General Ducat, ready and vigorous as he was, necessarily dwarfed for a time the civil authorities, and some of them naturally sought occasion to attach blame in some way to him for his energetic conduct. The newspapers professed to quote the Mayor as having expressed himself in disparaging terms of the General. He was out of town on the day of the publication but as soon as he had returned he sent to the offending newspapers the following correction:

Mayor's Office, Chicago, August 13th, 1877.

A statement reflecting upon the character of General A. C. Ducat during the late commotion in Chicago, and prominently published in your paper of 31st, July ult., has been handed to me to-day. I take my earliest opportunity, after an absence from the city of ten days, to personally write you and refute the charges and insinuations in that article. The conduct of General Ducat in the late riots in this city was that of a brave and conscientious soldier, and in that respect he is entitled to the thanks of the entire law-abiding community, and not to censure.

MONROE HEATH,
Mayor.

The foregoing paragraphs are, in the main, but a summary of Major-General Ducat's official report upon the suppression of the riots which duty required him to submit to the Adjutant-General of the State. This report contains the only authentic account extant of what took place in that anxious time.

The expedition commanded by General Ducat was directed to Braidwood, against the riotous miners at that point. At other coal-mining and manufacturing places over the State the insurrection was general and ugly, and the men engaged in it were all in a way connected. It was the policy to mass the troops against them at a principal seat of their operations and crush them, believing that that would dishearten all the others. When it is considered that the territory of Illinois is larger than Ireland and Scotland put together, and one-third as large as France, and that the troops commanded by General Ducat numbered only about three thousand, it will be seen that his task was a difficult one. But he succeeded perfectly at Braidwood, and in a few days the rioters everywhere subsided. Peace was restored and manufacturing industries were resumed.

Appended to General Ducat's official report were the following recommendations:

Headquarters Division, I. N. G.
Chicago, November, 1878.

General: I have the honor to respectfully recommend as follows:

That the infantry of the State be raised to ten thousand men, consisting of twenty regiments, in four brigades and one division; that to each regiment be added one Gatling gun, to be manned from a detail of each regiment; and that to each brigade be added one field battery of six guns, consisting of four Napoleon and two three-inch rifle guns.

That the cavalry be raised to two regiments, one regiment at Chicago, one battalion at Quincy, one battalion at Peoria, and one battalion at Springfield.

That full field equipage for two brigades be provided and kept ready for service, one at Springfield and one at Chicago.

That two State arsenals and magazines be built, one at Springfield and one at Chicago.

That State armories be built at points where there is a regiment.

That every effort be made to have a well digested and sufficient military code adopted by the State, making full provisions for the support and equipment of the troops and the enforcement of proper military discipline, in which the present code is very deficient.

That steps be taken to influence the appropria-

tion by the General Government of a sufficient sum to arm and equip and help sustain the militia of the States upon a thorough and efficient military footing.

That steps be taken to influence the change of laws and, if necessary, the constitution, to prevent the carrying of arms by bodies of men other than the army of the United States, the militia of the States and municipal forces, and to prevent the meetings of bodies of men who are professed agitators or of dangerous character, likely to disturb the peace or threaten the lives and property of the people.

The constitution and laws of the United States were framed for patriots, and at a time when almost the whole population was a unit in its desire for the welfare, success and peace of the new republic.

Since then many agitators and advocates of theories dangerous to the peace of the country and to society have drifted to our shores, invited, perhaps, by the liberty so freely offered and which they are disposed to abuse. Our country is no longer new; it is subject to all the dangers of surplus population; and, if law and order and peace are to be maintained, there must be power and force. Laws are of little value without the power to enforce them.

It is very probable that much confidence would be restored, and the present depressed state of business much relieved, if the people felt that they were secure and protected in working the industries of the country.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR C. DUCAT,
Major-General Commanding Division.

CHAPTER XV.

POLITICS—GENERAL DUCAT RESIGNS FROM THE MILITIA.

During the progress of the riots, which caused great excitement throughout the State, the militia, organized as a division of the National Guard, was seen to be the only dependence of the people for the restoration of order and the future preservation of peace. The prompt manner in which it responded to the call of the Executive of the State and its splendid, though prudent, conduct in the field, earned for officers and men the applause and thanks of the citizens. Heretofore politics had not entered into calculations or plans of those who composed the Guards, nor of their best supporters and friends. But now that the Guards had become a powerful and admired body, mostly of young men, with homes and local influence in every town and precinct, the politicians began systematic scheming to get

possession of the source of authority over the entire organization. Two years before, when the bill for a new militia law was in the Legislature, some of the more grasping politicians then saw the possibilities to them in the law, if amended in their interest. But for the time they were forced by General Ducat to keep their hands off; his urgent appeals by letter and in person, to the Legislature and the public, secured the passage of the bill—a bill which was not perfect, as its framer admitted.

The imperfections of the law were made still more evident while the sporadic insurrection, known to history as the riots of 1877, gravely troubled the State. Plainly the law needed to be amended; the question was, should it be amended by the enemies or the friends of a non-partisan militia? General Ducat took the initiative, by calling a convention of all the field officers, with a view to the drafting a new bill that should, at any rate, have none of the defects of the then existing law. The convention harmoniously prepared such a bill, and when the Legislature came together it was introduced and sent to the committee. A great deal too much time, General Ducat thought, was taken for its consideration in the commit-

3099751B

tee; and he wrote to the chairman, and influential members of the two houses, requesting and urging that it be looked after, reported, and put in the way of a speedy passage. At last it was reported, and there was rejoicing among the Guards everywhere, and no less was there gladness among the people at large.

But the friends of the militia were to have a bitter disappointment. The bill that went to the committee was not the bill that came from the committee—it had been materially changed—"amended" out of recognition by its original framers. As soon as the nature of this bill became known, there was a loud protest from the militia. The newspapers throughout the State exposed its sinister features; and the Citizens' Association of Chicago, which embraced a hundred or more of the leading citizens, took up the matter, and caused a protest and petition to be circulated for signatures in all the large cities, as follows:

To the Members of the Legislature of the State of Illinois:

We, the undersigned, citizens of the State of Illinois, have seen during the past two years the friendly and successful efforts of the Major-General commanding the division of the National Guard, and the brigadier-generals commanding the

brigades, to bring the Illinois National Guard to a state of commendable efficiency.

We understand a bill is before the Legislature of the State of Illinois providing a military code for the State, and purporting to be a bill from a committee of the officers of the National Guard, legislating out of office the Major-General commanding the division, and in no manner fairly representing the views of that committee, nor those of the officers and men composing the National Guard, nor of the citizens interested in its well being.

That we hereby desire to remonstrate against any bill abolishing the office of major-general commanding the division of the Illinois National Guard, and placing his authority in the Adjutant-General, an officer appointed by the Governor and removable at his will, as being unmilitary and calculated to destroy the efficiency of the Illinois National Guard.

We therefore petition your honorable body to retain the office of major-general commanding the division, and to reduce the rank of the Adjutant-General from major-general to that of colonel.

General Ducat, in a letter, hit the nail on the head by saying that the bill was "not only in opposition to all the principles involved in correct military organization, but it was a dangerous accumulation of power in the hands of a politician—for such would be the position of the Adjutant-General in case this monstrosity

became law." But all to no purpose; the politicians were bent on having it their own way. One feature of the bill was popular, that disarming independent military companies when on parade. Pending the consideration of the bill in the Legislature, there was, on Sunday, April 20, the anniversary of the Paris Commune, a great communistic parade in Chicago. In the parade were twelve hundred uniformed men in companies and battalions, four hundred of whom were armed with breech-loading rifles. This demonstration caused much excitement in the city and State, which served to concentrate attention upon the disarming clause of the pending military bill, which soon passed both houses of the Legislature, and was approved by the Governor. The new law was not immediately to go into effect, but General Ducat immediately resigned. On June, 1879, he with his staff retired from the military service of the State.

Major H. O. Collins, who was a valued member of the staff, has paid this tribute of praise to his commander: "During the time General Ducat was in command, the greatest cordiality prevailed between him and the officers and men of the different regiments and brigades. Many of them had fought with

him through the campaigns of the war, and they were quick to seize upon his ideas for the organization of the militia, and they afforded him assistance without which his efforts would have been futile. The general rules for the government of militia, established by him, have been practically adopted in the Adjutant-General's Department, and their influence will be felt in the control of the troops as long as our present system of State militia shall exist."

Upon the receipt of General Ducat's resignation by the Governor he addressed to the retiring officer the following letter:

State of Illinois, Executive Mansion,
Springfield, June 15, 1879.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 9th inst. has been received tendering your resignation as Major-General Commanding Division of Illinois National Guard, which is accepted.

Thanking you for your attention and devotion to duty while you have held the commission as Major-General, and regretting that I shall be deprived of your aid in the military service during the remainder of my term of service as Chief Executive, I am, with great respect, very truly yours,

SHELBY M. CULLOM,
Governor.

Major-General Arthur C. Ducat,
Chicago, Illinois.

CHAPTER XVI.

TRIP TO CALIFORNIA—LIFE AT LINDENWALD.

During the years 1892-93, General Ducat's health again failed and he felt compelled to exercise great care to preserve such strength of body as he still retained. He continued to give attention to business and was not many days absent from his office desk; but his physical condition warned him that he must abate somewhat his professional activities. His friends, and especially his old army friends, visited him often at his country home and a degree of good fellowship was maintained. So matters went on with him until the fall of 1891, when his ailments increased, and he was obliged to take the advice of his physicians and intermit his labors in the city. In December he was further advised to make a trip to California, with a view to the improvement of his health. Taking his family with him, he went to San Diego, Cal., and spent the winter there and in the vicinity.

Returning in the following spring to the East, General Ducat and his family again took

up their residence at Lindenwald. The General was now able to re-engage in business, but he found it necessary to be more sparing of his strength than formerly, and gave considerably less attention to the details of the business. He had therefore more time to devote to his family, and to the enjoyments of art and literature. He was a clever artist and an expert amateur photographer.

He had not forgotten California, and in the autumn of 1893, he, with his family, went out there again, to repeat the riding and the boating, and some of the excursions of two years before. On this visit to the golden coast he was so well pleased that he decided that he would like to make a home somewhere there for himself, and before the winter was out (1894) he had purchased an acre lot on the villa-crowned hill back of San Diego, upon which it was his intention to some day build a suitable house. He selected well, for from his lot are had glimpses of the beautiful bay, and grand views of the mountains in the rear and of the ocean in front. In the spring, again, he returned to Lindenwald.

Still his health was poor, and he was extremely disinclined to resume work. He gave

increased attention to Lindenwald, to add, if possible, to its attractions; and he gave some care to another tract of land adjacent to the homestead, which he had lately purchased. He read more and more in his library, and his visits to the city were made at longer intervals. In November, 1895, he asked his business partner and friend to relieve him of even a nominal connection with the office; and in that month and year the long-existing partnership was dissolved. And now once more he began to think of California, and he actually commenced planning to build on his property at San Diego, where he hoped to settle down with his family.

CHAPTER XVII.

LAST ILLNESS AND DEATH. MEMORIAL NOTICES.

During the last days of January, 1896, General Ducat was not much in Chicago, and when he did occasionally go into the city, he told one or another of his friends that he was not feeling well. These friends thought him looking as well as usual and said as much to him; but all they could say, did not rouse him out of

his state of evident depression. On the 22d of January he was in the city, and though he appeared in his usual health he complained of being ill. It was a cold afternoon, but he was obliged to ride some distance in a street car, and as the car was crowded, he stood on the front platform. Arrived at his home that evening he was taken with a chill and soon retired to bed. The next day the physicians pronounced it a case of pneumonia, and although everything that medical skill could suggest was tried to arrest the disease, he rapidly grew worse till the 27th, when he rallied and seemed to improve; but on the next day the malady with which he was stricken became complicated with heart failure, and he rapidly sank until the 29th, when he died.

The news of his death was received in the city as a shock, for very few had heard of his illness. The newspapers all had extended notices of his death, and eulogistic observations upon his life and character; and on the same day, or shortly after, several organized bodies of citizens, civil, benevolent and military, met and adopted memorial papers in regard to the deceased.

The funeral services were held on January

31st in the chapel at Rose Hill. Bishop McLaren of the Protestant Episcopal Church (the church to which General Ducat belonged) officiated. The immediate relatives in attendance were the widow, Lieutenant Arthur Ducat and Mrs. C. R. Stivers.

The pallbearers were:

Maj. G. L. Paddock,
E. C. Waller,
R. N. Trimmingham,
Judge Eugene Carey,
Gen. Wm. Sooy Smith,
Gen. John McArthur,
Col. C. W. Davis,
Chas. F. Grey,
George M. Lyon.

MEMORIAL NOTICES BY ASSOCIATIONS AND PUBLIC BODIES ON THE DEATH OF GENERAL DUCAT.

The action taken by the Underwriters' Association was reported in the city newspapers, as follows:

The Underwriters' Association yesterday (Jan. 29) met in special session to take action relative

to the death of Gen. A. C. Ducat. A large number of representative insurance men were present. A committee consisting of Thomas Goodman, H. H. Brown, A. J. Harding, Charles W. Drew, and W. H. Cunningham presented the following memorial of General Ducat, and it was ordered spread on the records of the association:

The underwriters of this city were yesterday shocked to hear of the death of our friend and fellow-underwriter, Arthur C. Ducat—a warm-hearted, generous, noble Christian man, one whose life was never tainted by any conduct which was unmanly or unprofessional. As an underwriter and a man he was without reproach, and constituted a worthy example for others in the same profession. He was born in Dublin, Feb. 24, 1830, of Scotch parents. After enjoying the advantages of good schools in his native city, he emigrated to this country. At the age of nineteen he became a civil engineer. Before the Civil War he became secretary and general surveyor of the old Chicago Board of Underwriters. At the breaking out of the war in 1861 he enlisted in the military service of his adopted country. His courage, zeal, and good judgment were such that from one step to another he was promoted till he became a general.

After the war, the Home Insurance Company of New York secured his services as local agent in this city, and after a while as general agent for several States, in which service he was associated with George M. Lyon, under the firm name of Ducat & Lyon.

The General had his trials and beveavements, but amid them all he bore himself as one who realized that this world is not an abiding place. Years ago he united with the Presbyterian Church at Evanston, from which place he removed his residence to Downer's Grove. Therefore,

Resolved, That this Association sincerely mourns the loss of one so highly esteemed, and who for so many years was a reliable underwriter; and

Resolved, That we tender to his widow and family our sympathy, and we trust that He who does not willingly afflict, will give the consolation of His grace and help them to bear their affliction.

The newspaper report continues:

Brief speeches were made, expressive of the feeling that was manifest in the meeting, by E. M. Teall, J. C. Griffiths, Thomas S. Chard, Abram Williams, Conrad Witkowsky, C. H. Case and Thomas Goodman.

It was voted to engross the memorial and send a copy to the family; also to contribute floral offerings, and to attend the funeral at Rosehill in a special car provided for the members of the association.

September 29-30, 1896, the Fire Underwriters' Association of the Northwest held its twenty-seventh annual meeting. On the second day the association listened to a report of

the obituary committee on the death of General Ducat. It was lengthy and able, recounting his services in both military and civil life, and closing with this paragraph:

The committee feel that it is fitting here at this time thus to recall the various acts of usefulness done by our associate. As we recall the life-work of our friend, his faithful service to his adopted country, his zealous labors as a citizen of this State and city, and his contributions to the business of underwriting, we feel more deeply the great loss we have sustained by his death. Those of us who knew the General more intimately, and whose acquaintance with him was in social intercourse, know how sincere and faithful he was in his friendships, and how generous and charitable he was in his dealings, and how loving a heart he had, and how ready he was to aid in all benevolent work.

We revere his memory, and we tender his family our sincere condolence.

ABRAM WILLIAMS,
J. C. GRIFFITHS,
H. H. WALKER,
Committee.

At the first regular meeting of the "Loyal Legion," after the death of General Ducat, appropriate action was taken, and certified to in a formal manner. The certification and memorial are the following:

MILITARY ORDER
of the
LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Commandery of the State of Illinois.
Chicago, Ill., March 20, 1896.

At a stated meeting of this Commandery, held on the twelfth day of March, eighteen hundred and ninety-six, the accompanying report of a committee appointed to prepare a tribute of respect to the memory of our late Commander, Lieut.-Col. and Bvt. Gen. Arthur Charles Ducat, was read and adopted.

By order of Lieutenant-Colonel.

ALDACE F. WALKER,
Commander.

CHARLES W. DAVIS,
Lieut.-Col., Recorder.

ARTHUR CHARLES DUCAT.

Arthur Charles Ducat was born February 24th, 1830, near Dublin, Ireland, to which place his father had some years before removed from Scotland. In Dublin he enjoyed the benefits of a solid education. Before reaching the age of twenty-one he resolved to come to America; he carried out that purpose and eventually took up his permanent abode at Chicago. Here and hereabouts he spent some time in study and field work as a civil engineer before entering upon his lifelong pursuit—that of fire assurance. In this vocation at the outbreak of the war he was fast gaining the respect of his associates and superiors, and through the

discipline of obedience fast acquiring the capacity for leadership.

In 1861 he heard the call of his adopted country, and gave to her appeal a clear and instant response. Enlisting at Chicago April 17, he was, a few days later, mustered into the Twelfth Illinois Infantry Volunteers. Promoted Second Lieutenant, he became Adjutant of that regiment on May 2d, 1861; he was commissioned Captain of Company A, August 1st, 1861; Major, September 24th, 1861; Lieut.-Colonel, April 1st, 1862. During the period of his duty with the Twelfth Illinois he served in Southern Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, and in the movements of General Grant's forces in Tennessee and Mississippi, and was especially distinguished at the siege and capture of Fort Donelson. But shortly after the taking of Corinth there opened for Colonel Ducat that larger military career for which by character and education he was so admirably fitted—a career in which he was destined to render great service to the Union cause. Detached from his regiment, he was ordered upon staff duty at the headquarters of Major-General Ord, and with that officer was present at the operations near Iuka in September, 1862.

At the battle of Corinth, in the following month, he served under General Rosecrans as acting Chief of Staff and Chief of Grand Guards and Outposts, at the headquarters of the Army of the Mississippi, an active and responsible position as understood and filled by so intelligent and enterprising an officer. Sparing in this arduous service neither labor

nor personal risk, he did much to improve and regulate that important branch of the service.

When General Rosecrans, on October 24th, 1862, was ordered by the War Department to relieve General Buell after the battle of Perryville, Lieutenant-Colonel Ducat accompanied him to Bowling Green, and was assigned to duty as Chief of Staff and Assistant Inspector-General at the headquarters of the forces afterwards known as the Army of the Cumberland. He continued to act as Chief of Staff until November 13, 1862, when he was relieved in that position by Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General Julius P. Garesche. To these new duties Colonel Ducat brought the same qualities of activity, courage and thoroughness which had distinguished him under the same commander in his former service.

With Chattanooga as its objective point, the Army of the Cumberland rested and reorganized, marched out of Nashville to meet and drive back General Bragg at the battle of Stone River, Dec. 31st, 1862. After the occupancy of Murfreesboro there occurred, in June, 1863, the nine days' campaign of Tullahoma. During the following September the Army of the Cumberland was called upon to perform those laborious, strategic marches which finally forced the abandonment of Chattanooga by the Confederate Army and brought on the battle of Chickamauga. For brave and meritorious conduct at Chickamauga he was honorably mentioned by General Rosecrans in his official report of that momentous event, as a "faithful officer—brave, prompt and energetic in action."

Officers who served in the Army of the Cumberland at this period unite in saying that to the energy and organizing skill of Colonel Ducat, and to his active example of fidelity, was due in large part the efficiency of the grand guard and outpost service of that army. It can be added that the general efficiency and discipline of the same army were largely advanced by the able and conscientious performance of his duties in the Inspector-General's department.

Upon the succession of Gen. Thomas to the command of the Army of the Cumberland, Colonel Ducat was retained on duty in his former position, and on January 9th, 1864, was promoted in general orders as Inspector General of the department.

Broken in health by the fatigues and exposures of the previous years, Colonel Ducat found himself no longer physically able to bear the hardships of active service, and, resigning his commission, he returned to his home in Chicago in February, 1864. From that time to the moment of his death, January 29th of the present year, his friends and fellow citizens can bear testimony to his high character and exemplary conduct in every relation in life. His services in the war were appropriately recognized by the brevet of Brigadier-General of Volunteers.

The Commandery will remember him as its fourth Commander, and remember also the loving and repeated hospitality with which he welcomed his companions to Lindenwald, his beautiful home at Downer's Grove. Present at the organization of this Commandery, he sympathized with all its as-

pirations, all its joys and sorrows, during its entire existence.

In concluding this brief memorial of affection and respect, we desire to place upon record our deep sense of the loss sustained by his family, by his personal friends, and by our Commandery, in the death of our late companion and friend.

GEORGE L. PADDOCK,
JOHN M'ARTHUR,
JOSEPH B. LEAKE,
RICHARD S. TUTHILL,
EPHRAIM A. OTIS,
Committee.

The committee of the Loyal Legion submitted the foregoing memorial sketch to a full meeting of the Society, and it was adopted unanimously, and amid many expressions of sorrow by individual members. The mourning in that body of old soldiers of rank was sincere and deep.

Similar action to that taken by the two organizations above reported was likewise had in the St. Andrews Society. At a special meeting of the Society, called for the purpose of noticing the death of General Ducat, after a preamble setting forth the fact of his demise and lamenting its suddenness, the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That in the death of General A. C. Ducat this Society has lost one of its old and valuable members. He was a man of high honor and integrity, combined with great executive ability. He attained a leading position in the community and especially in the business of fire insurance, in which he was conspicuously engaged. He was born of Scotch parents in the city of Dublin, February 24, 1830, and there he was educated. At the age of 20 he came to this city, and for some years was engaged as civil engineer in railroad building in the vicinity. At the outbreak of the war, in 1861, he was among the first to enlist in the army for the defense of the union of his adopted country. In that army his soldierly qualities and great ability soon brought him to the front in important positions. He won high distinction, but was compelled by ill health to leave the service before the war closed. Disease contracted in the service lingered with him to the end. And thus has been added another life lost to the country because of the war to maintain inviolate the union of the States as a legacy to all coming generations of Americans.

Resolved, That these resolutions be entered on the records of the Society, and a copy of them be forwarded by the secretary to the widow and family of the deceased.

JOHN M'ARTHUR,
JOHN ALSTON,
HUGH RITCHIE,
Committee.

Chicago, Ill., January 29, 1896.

CHAPTER XVIII.

CONCLUSION.

The foregoing chapters contain all the materials toward a biography of General Arthur Charles Ducat that have been found available for the purpose. It will have been learned by the reader that the most of his military papers were destroyed in the great fire of 1871. General Rosecrans has written that the War Department has preserved a complete record, but recourse could not well be had to that quarter. Enough, however, is given in this account of a distinguished and useful life to enable his relatives and friends to realize what kind of a man he was.

His business successes when he was little more than a youth were but the forecast of the greater achievements of his later years. A more honorable business career has not been run in the vast community in which he passed the principal part of his life.

In the army, during the War of the Rebellion, he won a good deal of fame, but did not attain to the rank that his merits and achieve-

ments entitled him. All who peruse these pages must feel, as it is certain General Ducat himself felt, that it was to him, personally, extremely unfortunate that he was selected by discriminating commanders to do staff and inspection duties although, as Inspector-General of the army and Commander of Grand Guards and outposts he rendered invaluable services. The Grand Guard was the very eye of the army which did not close either day or night. As chief of staff on the field of Corinth he was virtually the commander, when at points remote from General Rosecrans. Upon a not less responsible duty at Chickamauga the fate of the army more than once seemed to rest on what report he should make to his superior officers. He appears almost never to have made a mistake. The weak points of the enemy he was quick to see and take advantage of; and any weak places in the Federal lines he was sure to notice and promptly to strengthen them. His alertness and ready determination were observed and admired by everyone. A writer on the war, who was himself a spectator at the battles of Corinth and Chickamauga, says: "Ducat was early distinguished for his thorough knowledge of military details, his

organizing powers and executive ability, that mastered all details of topography and the movement of hostile armies." These qualities, together with others of a social nature, served to attach to him able men in many of the walks of life. All the commanders he ever was under, or who were in position to observe him, sought his acquaintance and friendship. To support this assertion, if support were needed, the following letter from General M. C. Meigs, of the United States Army, should serve:

Washington, D. C., August 11, 1888.

My Dear General: I failed to recognize this morning, on the portico of St. Matthew's Church, in the well-rounded, handsome general who shook my hand and gave his name (I caught it at the moment as General Carr), the athletic, broad-shouldered, thin-flanked horseman whom I have for twenty-five years so pleasantly remembered as Colonel Arthur C. Ducat, of General Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland, with whom I had such pleasant and agreeable intercourse at Chattanooga in 1863.

Puzzled and mortified at my failure to recognize a gentleman who accosted me in a friendly manner, I fear my response was not so hearty as I should have wished to make it, and as it would have been had I caught the name "Ducat."

The world, I judge, has gone well with you,

General. I hope so, and so believe, from your appearance in good health and with the additional weight which comes to nearly all our old comrades after exchanging the outdoor activity of the field for the sedentary habits of peace. I truly hope it has been thus with you, for none more richly merit a happy and successful career than yourself.

I see the name of your son occasionally. The only communication I remember to have had with you till to-day, in the quarter of a century since we became acquainted in the beleaguered lines of the Army of the Cumberland, was in reference to his application for a cadetship. I pray that the son may emulate the virtues of the father, in case we may have occasion to defend our country's rights again on the stricken field.

When Grant came to us, how well, with Sheridan, who, alas! we buried to-day, and Sherman, who, thank God, is still with us, did the Army of the Cumberland do its part in the dispersion of the enemy under whose insulting guns we lay so long!

I hope we may meet again in a shorter interval than the last. With the highest regard,

Your friend,

M. C. MEIGS, U. S. A.

General Arthur C. Ducat.

Other letters of a similar tenor might be introduced, but this memoir is now finished. It is hoped that his relatives and friends, and

any others amongst possible readers, who knew General Arthur Charles Ducat at all well, may be able to recognize in its pages true indications of his intellectual and moral strength; and to realize, now that he is dead, as they surely did while he lived, that his was a strong upright character, and that he was in very truth a Christian gentleman.